

**Town of Northwood
Conservation Commission Minutes
April 6, 2021**

Chair Levergood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Chair Grace Levergood, Wini Young, and Susan Romano, Fred Borman, Tom Chase, Steve Hampl and Grace Mattern.

Town Staff present:

Linda Smith, Land Use Specialist and Susan Austin, Land Use Assistant

Election of Officers

Mr. Chase nominated Grace Levergood as Chair. Mr. Borman seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7/0.

Ms. Romano nominated Fred Borman as Vice Chair. Ms. Mattern seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7/0.

MINUTES:

March 2, 2021

Chair Levergood made a motion to accept the minutes of March 2, 2021 Ms. Young seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 4/0/3 Fred Borman, Tom Chase, and Steve Hampl abstained.

Wetlands Application

Cindy Balcius, from Stoney Ridge Environmental was present to speak about a wetland permit application. Ms. Balcius stated that she had been in front of the Conservation Commission before for this project, (relative to a Special Exception) but the plans had changed a bit since then. One of the big factors that were under discussion at some of the other board meetings was an addition of a road so there are two ways to enter and exit the subdivision. Ms. Balcius shared her screen so the members could see the plans. She stated that the access from Old Turnpike Road had a lot of safety concerns because Old Turnpike Road itself has washed out in the past. The addition of that section of road allows another exit point for people to leave Old Turnpike Road and come out on to Route 4. The main access to the subdivision is on Route 4. In general, the proposed wetland impact to the project is 6,970 square feet. That has not changed. The access road itself would impact the wetland in two spots, one is a crossing that is now existing on the wood road, that has 1,240 square feet of impact. The second impact is an isolated forested wetland, that proposed impact is 5,730 square feet. They did several vernal pool studies, and they have not documented any species in the pools. Both wetland impacts are to forested wetlands that are dominated by deciduous and evergreens, mainly hemlocks. The overall functions and values are relatively very low. Both of the wetlands have minimal functions for wildlife habitat. The proposed impact for the 1,240 square feet is an existing crossing, they are upgrading the culvert and they are widening it. In referring to the site plan, Ms. Balcius pointed out the access points to the subdivision.

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Chair Levergood suggested that they plan a site walk so the newer members could see the site. A site walk was planned for Saturday April 10 at 2PM.

Tom Chase: Discussion about upcoming Ash Tree Warrant

Mr. Chase stated that the Select Board put a warrant article before the Town last year to begin to set money aside to deal with terrestrial invasive species, in the case the Emerald Ash Borer was the precipitating problem. Since then, all the Ash trees have begun to die. This year the Select Board put \$5,000 before the town to begin to build up what they will need to deal with the trees that are on town property. The other question that came up with regard to this was that they had planned to have an Emerald Ash Borer presentation a year ago, but then they were shut down due to the pandemic. It might still be a topic that they might sponsor a session on so that some property owners who are watching their Ash trees die might have a chance to learn more about what their options are. Mr. Chase asked if this is something that they may want to resurrect in a different form because the Ash trees have gone from live to blond in a space of a year. Mr. Borman stated that they are actually at the point where the trees are starting to fall down. It doesn't take long for these trees to disintegrate after they die. Mr. Borman asked if it was possible to put a public service announcement on the Town web page. Ms. Smith stated that they could, as well as the Facebook page.

Follow-up of Annual Review/Set up Goals for 2021:

- a. Date to Meet with Town Forester/Review and Prioritize Town Forests**
- b. Schedule Site Walks- Town Properties or Prime Wetlands?**

Ms. Young stated that the idea of this is to look at this review fairly often and making sure these things get done. She stated that she added "current use/conservation fund, current use penalty" to the list. Ms. Smith stated that she is looking into this for her. She also stated that Town Administrator Mr. Walter Johnson would like to reinstate a policy where any kind of land that the Board of Selectmen would like to sell, The Conservation Commission would get to look at it first.

Mr. Borman stated that he tends to look around when he's out walking the boundaries. The Parsonage lot does not look like it's had any treatment in quite a while. There is a lot of Beech and Hemlock growing up. The School lot north of Lucas Pond Road was cut in the early 2000's, maybe even as late as 2011. That lot could actually use a secondary shelter wood cut. Some of the properties he has not been on, but the ones that he has been on, other than the School lot, has not had anything done in quite a while. He feels they should update the management plans for these properties. Mr. Borman stated he could contact the forester and they could see what his availability was is.

Acceptance of changes to Special Exception Form

Chair Levergood made a motion to accept the changes to the Special Exception form. Ms. Mattern seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 6/0/1, with Mr. Borman abstaining.

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Acceptance of Kelsey Mill Fact sheet

Because every member had not seen this yet, it was tabled until the next meeting.

NALMC survey

Ms. Young stated that a student at UNH is working on their decorate, and they received a survey to fill out, along with a request for a phone interview. She stated that she would complete this on behalf of the Commission.

Update on Docko

Ms. Young stated that Mr. Burdin created a staff report on the project that she felt the rest of the members should see. Ms. Smith stated that she would forward the staff report to the members. Ms. Smith stated that she thought that the Planning Board would make a decision at the next meeting.

Maps

Ms. Romano stated that they made the aesthetic improvements on the maps that the members requested. They need to make sure now that all the information on the maps is accurate. She received input from Ms. Smith and Ms. Young. She feels that they are at the point now that they need to lay the map out on the table and have everyone look at them together.

Future Meeting Date

Site Walk: Eames Property: 2:00 PM April 10, 2021

Site Walk: Acorn Pond: 1:00 April 15, 2021

Regular Meeting: 7:00 PM May 4, 2021

Motion to adjourn is accepted at 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Austin, Land Use Assistant