

**Town of Newport, NH**  
**Newport Conservation Commission**  
**October 19, 2022 6:30 PM**  
**Board of Selectmen's Room/Municipal Building**  
**15 Sunapee Street/Newport, NH**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barry Connell, Chairman and BOS Representative; Donald Schagen, Vice Chairman; Guenter Hubert, Lawrence Schissel, Linda Dennis, Ken Dennis

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Christina Donovan, Planning and Zoning Administrator

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Sam Nelson, Natural Resources/Forestry Teacher; Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center/Newport (SRVRTC)

**VIDEOGRAPHER:** Alexander Zander, NCTV

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Connell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm followed by a roll call of the Commissioners and in attendance the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** ADD: Presentation by Mr. Samuel Nelson, teacher SRVTC on the current work being done in the Town Forest (Connell), ADD: Boundary Walk (L. Dennis), ADD: Parcels of Land abutting the Town Forest (Schissel), ADD: Mail (Stetson)

**PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Nelson gave an overview of the Natural Resources / Forestry program; SRVTC and the work they are doing in the Newport Town Forest. Using a PowerPoint presentation he explained that the program focuses on the growing field of Natural Resources/Forestry and its diverse range of educational and work opportunities; careers which manage, improve and protect the country's natural resources. The main areas of study within the program are: forestry, natural history, maple sugar production, diversified agriculture, soil science, and tree harvesting and management. Mr. Nelson said that he stresses good land and forestry management while working in the Town Forest and the work they do there reflects this goal. He gave a synopsis of the work his students have been doing during their daily visits to the Town Forest (maintaining the disc golf course, maintaining the trails to make it aesthetic and functional, removing invasive vegetation, drainage and culvert work, hazard assessment and removing hazard trees, sugaring) as well as a proposed future project. Mr. Nelson answered all the Commissioners questions and thanked them for their support of his efforts. The Commissioners asked Mr. Nelson to keep them informed of potential projects in the Forest; because his program has been using land overseen by the Conservation Commission, a copy of the Barton Property Conservation easement will be sent to him. It will state the conservation restrictions on the land and make him aware of any student work limitations. Mrs. Dennis told Mr. Nelson that there was a town forest management plan written by Meadowsend, Ltd. She suggested Mr. Nelson talk to them about any proposed work as well. The Commission will also send him a copy of the Town Forest management plan. Mr. Nelson stated he will write the Commission with future projects to keep them abreast of his work in the Town Forest.

Mr. Lovely will be asked to attend the November 16, 2022 Conservation Commission meeting.

**MINUTES:** September 28, 2022

September 28, 2022

On a motion by Mr. Schagen, seconded by Mr. Hubert; *the Commission approved the minutes of September 28, 2022 as presented. The motion passed 4-0-2 (Connell and Ken Dennis abstained).*

**BUSINESS:**

Rules of Procedure vote and signature

After a brief discussion, Mr. Dennis made a motion to approve the **NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE CONSERVATION COMMISSION RULES OF PROCEDURE 2022.10.19 revision as presented.** It was seconded by Mr. Schagen. *The motion passed 6-0-0.* The signature

page was signed by all members. Copies were made and distributed to the Commissioners for their files.

Chairman Connell made a motion *to approve the mission statement as written and to have it posted on the Town Conservation Commission webpage*. It was seconded by Dr. Schissel. *The motion passed 6-0-0.*

#### Dr. Schissel report on Mr. Lionel Chute

Dr. Schissel stated he was supposed to go for a wetlands course. His participation has been postponed due to COVID-19. He may be attending the 40 hour Wetlands Delineation Training at Vermont Tech. in spring 2023.

#### Public Relations-Community Outreach-Educational Opportunities

There was a discussion on upcoming Conservation educational meetings, work sessions and courses. Dr. Schissel, Chairman Connell and Mr. Schagen will go to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) workshop on Saturday, November 5, 2022. Interested Commissioners are to contact Ms. Donovan. Admission for the annual meeting and workshops is \$60.00/person. Ms. Donovan stated the Commission expenses will be covered by the Town Office of Planning and Zoning (TOPAZ) budget.

#### Land Conservation District Stewardship Program

After a brief discussion, the agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

#### Draft Warrant Article and Operating Budget

A Warrant Article for the 2023 Town Ballot will be written to acquire money from the Townspeople for a NRI. A definitive amount will be established for its purpose. Chairman Connell will approach Finance Director Brown for the legalize wording for the Warrant Article. He will also approach Town Manager Rieseberg about the money for an NRI and it not coming from any current Conservation Commission funds.

#### Operating Budget

A discussion was held on adding a Conservation Commission line item (\$12,000?) to the Planning and Zoning Department Budget. An amount to cover annual expenses will be submitted for approval. Included in the line item will be allocations for membership to the NHACC and attendance to educational workshops and project amounts. Commissioners were asked to email Chairman Connell with requests and estimates on the costs of projects to include in the 2022-2023 FY Budget proposal.

#### Master Plan

Ms. Donovan stated information she learned at a Planning and Zoning conference about Master Plans and NRI. There was a brief discussion on the work being done by the Planning Board for the Master Plan. There will be additional discussions on the Conservation sections of the Master Plan in 2023.

#### Conservation Commission Money –Finance Director Brown

The Conservation Commissioners held a lengthy discussion on the information that had been provided by Finance Director Brown on monetary withdrawals from the Conservation Commission Fund.

#### Monitoring of Barton, Yeomans, Wells and Johnson properties

Members were informed that Ms. Charlotte Harding, Stewardship Specialist; of the Land Conservation District Stewardship Program will be in Newport on October 25<sup>th</sup> (October 26<sup>th</sup> rain date) to monitor conservation properties in Newport. Starting time is 8 AM. She will not be monitoring every property as originally planned (she will do Barton and Johnson). Everyone will meet at the Summer Street trailhead.

#### Mail

Conservation Commission mail was opened. It will be forwarded to Ms. Donovan.

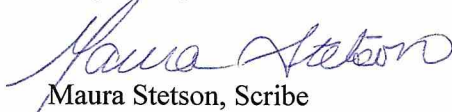
Parcels of Land in the Town Forest

Dr. Schissel informed the Commission of a trail in the Town Forest used for running races. It had been built and part was on a private parcel. It has been posted No Trespassing. The trail has since been rebuilt to not go on the abutters' property. There was a general discussion on property use and developing open communications with people using the Town Forest.

Chairman Connell asked Dr. Schissel to contact Mr. P.J. Lovely, Recreation Department Director, and invite him to come and update the Conservation Commission on his work in the Town Forest. Mr. Lovely will be asked to attend the November 16, 2022 Conservation Commission meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Schagen; *the Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

Approved: November 16, 2022

The next Conservation Commission Meeting will be held on November 16, 2022.

Reminder of Dates of Future Meetings

In September the Commissioners discussed the dates for the November and December meetings. The following dates were decided by unanimous vote.

November 16, 2022

December 14, 2022