

**Town of Newport, NH**  
**Newport Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of July 14, 2021**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Board of Selectmen's Room/Municipal Building**  
**15 Sunapee Street/Newport, NH**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ken Dennis, Acting Chairman; Linda Dennis, Vice Chairman; Donald Schagen, Clifford Richer, Alternate and Herbert Tellor, Jr. BOS Representative

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

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

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jesse Johnson, Jack Donovan

**VIDEOGRAPHER:** John Lunn, Executive Director NCTV

Acting Chairman Ken Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. followed by a roll call of members present and the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Dennis said that Mr. Richer would be sitting on the Board as an active participant. He would not be part of any motions or voting; the BOS needed to officially reappoint him at the July 19, 2021. He then introduced Mr. Jesse Johnson, Newport resident, who wanted to join the Conservation Commission and participate in the work they are doing to protect and preserve Newport's natural resources. Chairman Dennis welcomed Mr. Johnson and encouraged him to participate in the July 14, 2021 meeting. Mr. Johnson's name will go to the BOS for appointment at their July 19, 2021 meeting.

**MINUTES:** May 19, 2021

On a motion by Mr. Tellor, seconded by Mr. Schagen; *the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Richer abstained).*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Reorganization of the Commission

On a motion by Chairman Dennis, seconded by Mr. Tellor; *the Commission deferred the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman to the August 18, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Richer abstained).*

Gwyn Gallagher-Arborist-Town Green Tree Recommendations

The history of the Commission's Work on the Common Project is recapped below for new Commissioners.

Town Green (Common) Arborist Report-Linda and Ken Dennis

**(Recap March meeting):**Mr. Dennis informed the Commissioners he and an arborist had inspected the trees on the Common. Mr. Gwyn W. Gallagher had evaluated all the trees on the Common over the course of 2 ½ hours, noting which ones needed to be replaced, trimmed (pruned) and cut. Unfortunately Mr. Dennis did not have a written copy of the arborist's assessment. Only some types of trees are appropriate as replacement trees for the Common due to the conditions there. Mr. Dennis gave the arborist's qualifications and stated he worked with several surrounding communities. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis had contact information for the arborist and will follow through with him as the Commission requests.

**(Excerpts from the April meeting)**

*Mr. Dennis listed the items that would tentatively be done:*

*Pruning 30 trees*

*Cabling 2 trees*

*Removing 6 trees*

*Total: \$9,750.00*

*Root zone injections in the fall for 30 trees \$2,445*

*Total investment: \$12,195.00.*

*Mr. Dennis clarified that the report given to the Commissioners detailed not only the Common's trees but also the trees down the center aisle on Main Street, on the Little Common and the County Parking Lot. The information is more than just the Common for the trimming and fertilization. Mr. Dennis gave a synopsis of Mr. Gallagher's written report to the Commissioners (report is in the Commissioners packets). Mr. Gallagher's Management Program listed the trees needing to be removed, pruned, cabled and given root zone injections. There was a general discussion on previous and future maintenance of the trees in the downtown area.*

*Chairman Connell thanked Mr. and Mrs. Dennis for all their hard work on this project.*

**(Excerpts from the May Meeting):**

*Chairman Dennis stated it has been years since the Conservation Commission has been active in the maintenance and management of the trees on the Common (due in part by turnover in Commissioners and their focus). Mr. Richer, long time member of the Commission, concurred.*

*Chairman Dennis explained reasons (Mr. Gallagher had told him) that the trees are in tough shape. Chairman Dennis reiterated, for clarification for new Commission members that the arborist, Mr. Gallagher, had inspected not only the Common's trees but also the trees down the center aisle on Main Street, on the Little Common and the County Parking Lot. Those trees are also in his proposal's scope of work.*

*Mr. Gallagher's Tree Management Program proposal is:*

- 1) Mid-July/first of August Mr. Gallagher and crew will do all the trimming.*
- 2) In late September Mr. Gallagher and crew will do the tree removal and stump removal*
- 3) Throughout the winter the Conservation Commission would be able to choose the best types of trees for replacement.*
- 4) Mr. Gallagher will secure them for an early spring planting.*
- 5) Throughout the spring and summer Mr. Gallagher's company will water and care for them.*
- 6) In the late fall Mr. Gallagher's company will start the fertilization (root zone injections)*

*The scope of work will be broken down into these steps.*

*Mrs. Dennis stated the items that were proposed by the arborist:*

*Pruning 30 trees*

*Cabling 2 trees*

*Removing 6 trees*

*Total: \$9,750.00*

*Root zone injections in the fall for 30 trees \$2,445 (\$81 a tree)*

*Total investment: \$12,195.00.*

*Mr. Richer said it was not a lot of money for what it will do. Trees are very valuable. Chairman Dennis said there was nothing set in stone for the proposal. The full Commission has not voted on it; the BOS has not been shown the proposal or given input for adjustments to the schedule and scope of work.*

*Town Manager Rieseberg reiterated:*

- ❖ *It is Town property*
- ❖ *It is the Town's responsibility*
- ❖ *The Town would be happy to have the Commission manage the project*
- ❖ *Town Manager Rieseberg will contact them, set up meeting for sequence of events and contract*
- ❖ *The Town will pay to have the work done*

*He asked that the Commission contact Mr. Gallagher and send a draft contract to the Town office. Mr. Richer asked if the Commissioners needed to make a motion on the project as amended (Town Control). He was told no.*

Gwyn Gallagher-Arborist-Town Green Tree Recommendations (July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting):

Chairman Dennis addressed Mr. Tellor and asked him to update the Commissioners on the progress of the Town with the Tree Replacement Project. Mr. Tellor stated the Commissioners had the proposal contract sent by Town Manager Rieseberg. He had no additional information for them (the proposal is available for viewing at the Town Office. There have been some changes to the initial proposal by Mr. Gallagher).

The Commissioners reviewed the tree recommendations from Mr. Gallagher. They also reviewed a list of native hardwood and softwood trees provided by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Service.

When asked, Mr. Jesse Johnson explained the difference between hardwoods and softwoods and the most favorable trees Newport could use as replacements on the Common. Mr. Johnson stated that in his opinion, a municipality wanted to use hardwoods:

- 1) trees that will have easy maintenance
- 2) be aesthetically pleasing
- 3) provide shade
- 4) be hardy to the elements
- 5) withstand (minor) abuse.

Mr. Richer and Mr. Johnson discussed a few trees with natural defenses to abuse that would be good replacement trees.

There was a lengthy discussion among Board members and Mr. Johnson concerning the replacement trees, the proposed work, how it would be done and care and maintenance once the trees are planted. Mr. Johnson stated that Mr. Gallagher's reputation is of a quality person and providing quality work for his customers. In discussion he agreed the Commissioners had found a good person for their arborist.

The Commissioners decided to continue reviewing their tree lists and meet on the Common at 5 p.m. on August 18, 2021. The meeting will be posted as Part One of the Commission meeting. All Commissioners and the public will be welcome to attend as the Commissioners inspect the trees and their condition. Part Two will be in the BOS Room as usual.

## **ADMINISTRATION:**

### Rules of Procedure/Nuts and Bolts/Chapter 36-A

Ms. Donovan stated she had included the following in the Commission packets for the new and old Commissioners.

- The Newport Rules of Procedure.
- Chapter 36-A: Town implementing a Conservation Commission, their oversight and their powers, their appropriations.
- A hard copy of the 2016 Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission PowerPoint presentation (to the Commission).

Conservation Commission Mail

Ms. Donovan requested that the mail be deferred to the August 18, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting.

Monitoring Reports

The following monitoring responsibilities had been assigned on October 28, 2020 and are now completed:

Barton Easement: Mr. Richer and Mr. Dennis

Johnson Easement: Mr. Richer and Mr. Dennis

Yeomans Easement: Mrs. Dennis and Mr. Dennis

Wells Easement: Mrs. Dennis and Mr. Dennis

Marking the Conservation properties was discussed. Ms. Donovan was told that the easements would be marked with state provided tags in the fall of 2021.

Potential New Member(s)

Ms. Donovan informed the Commissioners of her continued search to acquire new members. Ms. Donovan planned to contact Mrs. Deb Stevens, Horticulture Instructor at the CTE on possible student representatives for the Conservation Commission; she had not heard back from Mr. Sam Nelson.

Bradford, NH Website review

Mr. Schagen asked if the Conservation Commission Mission Statement could be put up on the Town of Newport website under the Commission section. Ms. Donovan will have it done.

On a motion by Mr. Tellor, seconded by Mr. Schagen; ***the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson

Scribe

Approved: August XX, 2021