

Town of Newport, NH
Newport Conservation Commission
August 17, 2022 6:30 PM
Board of Selectmen's Room/Municipal Building
15 Sunapee Street/Newport, NH

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Donald Schagen, Vice Chairman

STAFF PRESENT: Maura Stetson, acting staff and recording secretary

VIDEOGRAPHER: John Lunn, NCTV

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

Chairman Connell addressed the Commissioners and explained the way he will be proceeding with the agenda in the future. Each month an email will be sent out asking members for input on what they would like on the agenda. Items requested will be added to the upcoming agenda.

Dr. Schissel arrived at the meeting at 6:33 PM.

AGENDA REVIEW: ADD to Administration: Quarterly financial report (Stetson), Trees on Corbin Road (Schissel); ADD to ACTION ITEMS: meeting with Planning Board, Warrant Article, NRI, (Connell), invasive species (Schissel)

Mrs. Dennis asked if the Commission should meet with the BOS about a budget for the Conservation Commission in 2023-2024. Chairman Connell stated the Commission had to write a Warrant Article. He asked about money for the Master Plan. None has been allocated. Ms. Donovan has to request the money in her TOPAZ budget.

MINUTES: July 20, 2022

July 20, 2022

On a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Hubert; *the Commission approved the minutes of July 20, 2022 as presented. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Linda Dennis abstained).*

NEW BUSINESS: (for full meeting go to: www.nctv-nh.org).

Review Wetlands Section of Master Plan

Chairman Connell thanked Mr. Hubert for getting everyone a copy of the Master Plan. He stated that the Commissioners have stressed the importance of wetlands in Newport that have not been identified. The map contained in the 2012 Master Plan (page 31) is not very good nor is the explanation of wetlands (page 29). Chairman Connell read aloud from the wetland section of the Master Plan, including page 30 which states the responsibility of the Conservation Commission. There was a discussion on the pages and responsibilities as stated in the Master Plan. Mapping the Newport wetlands would be part of the NRI and Master Plan (the Commission would have no financial assistance from the Town).

Chairman Connell asked how to proceed with the wetlands project (part of NRI). The Commissioners discussion included the following:

- Dr. Schissel said he would contact Mr. Lionel Chute and report to the Commission in September.
- Mrs. Dennis will contact New London and ask about the wetlands inventory they recently completed.
- Mr. Hubert reminded the Commission of Mr. Jeff Littleton and the price ranges he had stated.
- Dr. Schissel met with Mr. Seth Wilner of the NH Cooperative UNH Extension Service (Main Street). He also contacted the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. At the annual

Conservation conference there will be sessions about wetlands and workshops in the fall on delineating wetlands (Chairman Connell will get more information to the members).

ACTION ITEMS

Rules of Procedure

The Commissioners discussed the revised Rules of Procedure (ROP). They approved the revisions that Mrs. Stetson had made. Dr. Schissel requested two additional revisions: Article IX. Meetings and Hearings A. ...one meeting *should* be held... and Article VII. Organization, C. Duties of Chair: Add: ...meetings, *approve the monthly agenda*... Mrs. Stetson was directed to make a clean copy of the Rules of Procedure including Dr. Schissel's requested addition. It will be voted on at the September 21, 2022 Conservation Commission meeting, sent to the Town Clerk to be notarized, and put on file. Hard copies will be made for each Commissioner for their files. On a motion by Dr. Schissel, seconded by Mr. Hubert; ***the Commission tabled further action on the Rules of Procedure agenda item to the September 21, 2022 meeting. The motion passed 5-0-0.***

Financial Report

Chairman Connell stated he had asked Finance Director Brown for the quarterly financial report of the Conservation Commission. He had not received it for the August 17, 2022 Conservation Commission meeting. He will contact Finance Director Brown and forward the report to the Commission members. Chairman Connell told the Commissioners he had learned that the Town did not budget money for the Master Plan. The Town stated it was Ms. Donovan's responsibility to request the money. If Ms. Donovan requested money this budget season the Commission might ask for some for the NRI. There was discussion on the 2,000 dollars from the 2021-2022 TOPAZ budget and Town Manager Rieseberg eliminating the Town's financial support of a NRI as was specified to Selectman Connell before the June 20, 2022 BOS meeting. Mr. Dennis stated Town Manager Rieseberg had pledged (in words, not on paper) money to the Conservation Commission for its projects during one of the Commission's meetings. There is also a Land Conservation Fund (purchase land) the Town wants them to use for projects. Additional discussion will be at the September 21, 2022 meeting.

Monitoring of Conservation Lands

There was a general discussion on the monitoring of the LCHIP conservation lands in Newport. Mr. Hubert and Chairman Connell borrowed the red notebooks to review; they will insure the new checklists in the folders have an "invasive species" line item in them so the Commissioners can begin monitoring any in existence in the four properties they monitor in year 2022. Monitoring will be an agenda item in September 21, 2022. Dr. Schissel borrowed the Assessment done by Meadowsend for land bordering the Maple Street cemetery.

Land Conservation District Stewardship Program ...there was a brief discussion on the Program. Chairman Connell will get additional information for the September 21, 2022 meeting.

Warrant Article and Operating Budget for budget season and Town voting

The Commission discussed the writing of a warrant article and line item for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. Mrs. Stetson informed the Commissioners that the Planning Board had worked on their Shed Warrant Article during the summer and early fall for May Town meeting. The Conservation Commission's Warrant Article and line item could be written early and kept in Ms. Donovan's file until budget season. Chairman Connell will consult with Ms. Donovan and Mr. Dennis on writing the documents. He will bring drafts of both requests to the September 21, 2022 meeting.

NRI: The importance of focusing on wetlands (for ZBA and Planning Board) was discussed.

- focus on wetlands
- include invasive species

Meeting with Planning Board

The Commissioners discussed the importance of meeting with the Planning Board to develop a relationship and jointly work on the Master Plan.

Public Relations-Community Outreach

There was a discussion on past educational meetings and work sessions. The agenda item will be discussed on September 21, 2022. Chairman Connell will contact Mr. Sam Nelson at the School.

There is a Newport Ordinance that lists properties for protection in the Conservation District. Copies will be acquired for all members.

Trees on Corbin Road

Dr. Schissel explained to the Commissioners that the iconic scenic road (Corbin Road) of thirty years ago has fallen into disrepair. There was discussion on whether the state or the Town owned the road (it is state owned from Route 10, past the covered bridge to the Black's property). Dr. Schissel stated he didn't know if it was in the purview of the Conservation Commission. He explained the condition of the trees along the sides of the road; the safety issue they pose. Commissioners believed there is a covenant that regulates them. Corbin Road needs a long term management plan to bring it back and maintain its iconic beauty.

Invasive Species

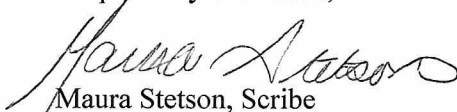
Dr. Schissel stated he would like invasive species to also be part of a NRI created by the Newport Conservation Commission. There was a discussion on discussing the topic with any volunteer or paid consultant. Partnering with a local gardening store was also suggested. Mr. Dode Gladder was named as one resource for the Commission.

Meeting with the Claremont Conservation Commission

Agenda item postponed to the September 21, 2022.

On a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mrs. Dennis; *the Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

Approved: September 28, 2022

Agenda Items for the September 21, 2022 Conservation Commission meeting:

- 1) Rules of Procedure vote and signature
- 2) Draft Warrant Article and Operating Budget
- 3) NRI
- 4) Monitoring of Barton, Yeomans, Wells and Johnson properties
- 5) Dr. Schissel report on Mr. Lionel Chute and NRI
- 6) Land Conservation District Stewardship Program
- 7) Public Relations-Community Outreach
- 8) Meeting with the Claremont Conservation Commission/Planning Board