

**Town of Newport, NH**  
**Newport Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of May 22, 2018**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Board of Selectmen's Room/Municipal Building**  
**15 Sunapee Street/Newport, NH**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Stanley Hannum, Co-Chairman; Linda Dennis, Clifford Richer, Ken Dennis

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

**STAFF PRESENT:** Paul Brown, Finance Director

**VIDEOGRAPHER:** Louis Cassorla

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Hannum called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. followed by a roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Hannum acknowledged Finance Director Brown in attendance as staff.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** accepted as presented.

**MINUTES:** postponed to the June 17, 2018 meeting.

**CONTINUED BUSINESS:**

Dode Gladders follow-up Johnson Land

Mrs. Dennis informed the Commission that a survey was being done on the Johnson Land. She needed to contact **Spinift** about the appraisal.

Chairman Hannum asked if she had a cost for the appraisal. Mrs. Dennis had told Mr. Gladders the Conservation Commission would not be interested in paying more than \$1,000. She stated the cost might be split three ways.

Mr. Ken Dennis addressed Finance Director Brown and asked if they could acquire money for the appraisal from the Town. Finance Director Brown stated that there was currently nothing appropriated. They could ask.

Mr. Richer asked Finance Director Brown if there was an appraiser that worked for the Town. Finance Director Brown clarified that the Town had an assessor, not a property appraiser.

There was a discussion between the Commission members and Finance Director Brown on the subject of appraisers.

Mrs. Dennis said she would contact Ryan Young from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests. Mr. Young has offered to help the Commission by:

1. The appraisal
2. Possibly write some grants (in order to acquire the land)  
*Ryan Young of the forest society told Mrs. Dennis he would be willing to help write a grant for LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) and a Moose Plate grant. Money would go towards acquiring conservation land. From minutes of the March 2018 meeting*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2018-SPPP-001: Summercrest Assisted Living LLC (Owner) Stephen E. Gunnerson (Agent):**

Request Phase III, Site Plan Review to adjust boundary line and construct 7,500 Sq. Ft. addition.

Chairman Hannum stated that after a quick overview of the site plans he did not see any problem that the Conservation Commission would have.

There was a general discussion on the proposed expansion of the facility; its location, the area the building would be on (preexisting buildings and ground use) and there were no wetlands in the proposed area.

On a motion by Ken Dennis, seconded by Linda Dennis; *the Commission voted to accept the site plan as is. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

For the Planning Board:

*The Conservation Commission had no concerns with the site plan for the Summercrest addition under the purview of their authority.*

Due to the fact that Finance Director Brown was in attendance at the Conservation Commission meeting the following items were discussed:

The island in the Sugar River in Kelleyville

Finance Director Brown was asked if the land would be given to the Conservation Commission. When asked if the Conservation Commission would be interested in having it under their jurisdiction, they said yes. Finance Director Brown said he would pass the information on.

There was a general discussion on the island and ownership.

Replacement of trees on the Common

Mrs. Dennis stated that trees needed to be purchased for the Common. She asked if there was any way for the Town to split the cost with the Conservation Commission. Finance Director Brown stated that currently there is no appropriation for the purchase of trees.

Finance Director Brown explained that the Conservation Commission used to receive annual funds. It had begun accumulating, was not being spent and the Town stopped giving the annual stipend. A written request (in November) that will go into the budget saying the Conservation Commission would like “x dollars” and the purpose for the money, would be considered for a budget line item.

Jolyon Johnson’s land

Mrs. Dennis asked if Finance Director Brown was familiar with Jolyon Johnson’s land. Mrs. Dennis told Finance Director Brown the Johnsons wanted to sell the rights to the Conservation Commission.

For clarification, Finance Director Brown asked if they wanted to sell the Conservation Easement to the Town. He was told yes.

Continuing, Mrs. Dennis stated they had been discussing ways to purchase the land (\$250,000).

Finance Director Brown stated that the proper process would be a Warrant Article request to the Board of Selectmen. There was a discussion on having a warrant article, the impact on the tax rate and the reality of purchasing the property for that amount of money.

Previous funding to the Conservation Commission has been:

- ❖ Annual appropriation from the Town (\$3,000-\$5,000) which stopped approximately 15 years ago

Other towns provide funding through:

- A percentage or the entire yield cutting income. The Conservation Commission would need to petition to have the money go to them instead of the General Fund. A vote at Town meeting would be necessary for this.
- Land use change tax. Finance Director Brown will have to research it.

### Monitoring Properties

Chairman Hannum addressed the Commission members and stated that it was time to monitor the conservation properties for 2018.

The Conservation members divided up the properties:

- ❖ Johnson-Ken Dennis and Cliff Richer
- ❖ Barton-Stanley Hannum
- ❖ Wells-Linda Dennis and Cliff Richer
- ❖ Yeomans-Linda Dennis and Cliff Richer

There was a general discussion on the monitoring of properties and who would do them. Partnered members would contact each other for dates and times. Chairman Hannum asked that Commissioners log out the red binders and log them in when they return them to the Conservation file cabinet.

The subject of the Barton property and the neighboring properties being in violation of the easement was discussed. Finance Director Brown encouraged Chairman Hannum to document the violations with photographs when he went out. There was a lengthy discussion on the violations and the procedures that have already been taken.

The Conservation Commission members discussed the unlawful dumping of leaves and brush. It was stated that the Town was partially to blame for not providing an area for residents to take their lawn trash. The Town no longer had a burn pile for residents to drop off tree limbs and other items.

### Future meetings

Discussion on future meetings was held. Mr. Richer would not be at the June 19, 2018 meeting. All other members would be available for a quorum.

Mr. Richer addressed the Commission members and stated he would be changing to an Alternate position. There was no discussion.

Mrs. Dennis asked if the Commission would still like to have Mr. Dode Gladders from the UNH extension office speak at one of the meetings. She will invite him to the September 25, 2018 Conservation Commission meeting.

### Financial Report

Finance Director Brown addressed the Conservation Commission members and stated that the only change to their finances was the addition of interest.

Trees on the Common

There was a general discussion by the Commission members on the trees and the necessary replacement of three trees on the Common. Mr. Dode Gladders will be doing an inspection on the remaining trees on the Common.

Mr. Dennis addressed Finance Director Brown and asked who was responsible for the tree on the Little Common, the Town or the Conservation Commission? It was unknown.

Mr. Richer asked that the Historical Society be asked to research and provide the answer.

Mr. Richer told the Commissioners that the last time he was on the Conservation Commission he helped plant trees on the Common. People would donate/gift the tree, the Conservation Commission would plant and care for the tree. He explained.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mrs. Dennis and Mr. Richer; ***the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:17 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson  
Scribe

Approved: June XX, 2018