

Town of Newport, NH
Newport Conservation Commission
Minutes of October 20, 2021
6:30 PM
Board of Selectmen's Room/Municipal Building
15 Sunapee Street/Newport, NH

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Dennis, Vice Chairman; Donald Schagen, Jesse Johnson and Herbert Tellor, Jr. BOS Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Dennis, Chairman; Clifford Richer, Alternate

STAFF PRESENT: Christina Donovan, Planning and Zoning Administrator

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: none

VIDEOGRAPHER: John Lunn, Executive Director NCTV

Vice Chairman Linda Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call of members present. Vice Chairman Dennis explained she would be conducting the meeting in Chairman Ken Dennis' absence.

MINUTES: September 22, 2021
September 22, 2021

On a motion by Mr. Schagen, seconded by Mr. Johnson; *the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 22, 2021 as presented. The motion passed 3-0-0.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Gwyn Gallagher, Arborist-Town Common tree selection
Mr. Gallagher was not able to attend the meeting.

Town Common MAP

The Commissioners commended Ms. Donovan on the map of the Common she had provided to the Commissioners. They discussed the visual the map gave of the Common and trees.

Mr. Tellor arrived at the Commission meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Mr. Jesse Johnson volunteered to go around the Common to label all the trees on the map and note the ones that have been slated for removal. He would make additional notations on the map i.e.: critical root zone that will be beneficial to the Commissioners when referencing and discussing the trees. Vice Chairman Dennis requested that Mr. Johnson also make a notation of whether the current trees are native or invasive to NH. Mr. Johnson had inspected the work done by Gwyn Gallagher and his tree service and stated they had done a really nice job.

In additional discussion, Mr. Tellor told the Commissioners that the extensive work done to the Blue Spruce located behind the gazebo has left it looking visually unappealing. There was discussion on the work done, the age of the tree, its shape and whether it will now be cut due to its appearance. Ms. Donovan stated that the tree management on the Common might be something that the Commission could write about for the bi-monthly newsletter from the Town. Mr. Schagen requested that the Commission also look towards articles on water resources and conservation; articles on what the Commissioners are doing.

The Commissioners discussed choosing the types of trees (native species) for replacement; it should be done as soon as possible. They reviewed the contractual work remaining in the Tree Management Plan:

- 1) Throughout the spring and summer 2022 Mr. Gallagher's company will remove identified trees (proposed removal schedule; 3 in 2022; 3 in 2023) and plant, water and care for the new trees.
- 2) In the late fall 2021 Mr. Gallagher's company will start tree fertilization (root zone injections).

The Commissioners requested that Mr. Gwyn Gallagher be invited to attend (in person or via zoom) the Conservation Commission meeting on December 15, 2021.

Ken/Linda Attachments

Vice Chairman Dennis addressed the Board and stated that Mrs. Gloria Stetson would like to put her land on Croydon Brook Road in North Newport into a conservation easement. Her wish is to have the Newport Conservation Commission be stewards of the land and enforce agreed upon restrictions stipulated by Mrs. Gloria Stetson and Conservation Commission representatives through a deed. (See Attachment One). There was a lengthy discussion on the proposal including the location of the property, lot size, typography of the land (field, woodlot, etc.) and the possibility of the Commissioners going and walking the property and property lines with Mr. Gardiner (Foot) Stetson, Jr. or his crew. Mr. Donald Schagen will contact Mr. Stetson, Jr. concerning the latter.

Vice Chairman Dennis stated that Mr. Stetson, Jr. had forwarded information concerning a workshop that will be put on by the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA) on Conservation Easements. It will be conducted via zoom on November 16, 2021 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Commissioners spoke among themselves on the educational value of the workshop. Vice Chairman Dennis requested that the November meeting be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 p.m. Mr. Gardiner Stetson, Jr. has been invited to the beginning of the meeting to express the Stetson family's intent. Vice Chairman Dennis ***requested that money from the Conservation Commission fund be used to pay the cost of the Commissioners to attend the November 16, 2021 zoom workshop. The Commissioners unanimously concurred.***

Ms. Donovan was directed to contact the NHTOA to reserve a spot for the Conservation Commissioners as a group to their workshop. She was also asked to inquire if the NHTOA would allow NCTV to televise the workshop.

ADMINISTRATION:

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) - Violations

- NH DES File Number 2021-03084: 60 Ayers Rd, Newport Tax Map #234-048, Lot #60. The Conservation Commission had been cc'd on correspondence between NHDES and Mr. Mark Perry of 514 E. Mountain Road in Newport concerning a complaint of possible violations of vegetation removal. There was a general discussion about the possible violation in the correspondence. Ms. Donovan was directed by the Commission to follow up (via phone) on the possible violation.
- FEMA violation (25 years old) on Chandlers Mill Road concerning a wall built on a property on the river.
- A second violation on Chandlers Mill Road (discussed)
- The Commissioners and Ms. Donovan discussed the Turkey Hill Road construction by Norwich Solar Technologies and the condition of the terrain, water runoff and any infringement of the wetlands on that property. Ms. Donovan was directed by the Commission to follow up on any additional mitigation the company would be doing.

Nuts and Bolts and Conservation Commissions Rules of Procedure

There was a lengthy discussion on the Pamphlet "Nuts and Bolts and Conservation Commissions" from the workshop put on by Mr. Nathan Miller from the Upper Valley Regional Planning Commission (UVRPC). Mr. Schagen stated there were several new members that would benefit from a workshop on

the subject. Ms. Donovan would look into another educational workshop on the topic for the Conservation Commission.

Ms. Donovan also stated that the Conservation Commission's Rules of Procedure were up for review (the Planning Board was going through theirs). A good timeframe for reviewing and amending if necessary is five years. The last time the Commission's Rules of Procedure were reviewed was in 2016. The Commissioners noted some amendments (additions) they would like added to the Rules of Procedure; it will be kept on the agenda as an action item.

Conservation Commission Public Outreach

Mr. Schagen and Vice Chairman Dennis discussed the surrounding towns Conservation Commission webpages linked to their town websites. Mr. John Lunn informed them there was a (Newport) Town Facebook page. He suggested contacting Ms. Joanne Dufour in the Town office for help in adding information to it. The Commissioners directed Ms. Donovan to look into how the Conservation Commission could add information to it.

The Commissioners also discussed the bimonthly Newport magazine (first edition will be November 2021). The Conservation Commission will write some informative articles to be submitted for the magazine. The Commissioners will share all articles written before submitting them. There would be no editorializing by any member of the Commission.

On a motion by Mr. Tellor, seconded by Mr. Johnson; *the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson
Scribe

ATTACHMENT ONE: letter from "Foot" Stetson

Approved: November XX, 2021

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be on November 16, 2021 in the BOS room at 6:30 p.m.