

North Hampton Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
11-17-21

Administrative

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call: Members present: Lisa Wilson (Chair), Kathy Grant (Vice Chair), Frank Arcidiacono, Dave Ciccalone, Lauri Etela, Audrey Prior and Andrew Vorkink.

Approval of October 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes: After the review of the October 12, 2021 minutes, *a motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to accept the minutes as written.* The motion carried with Lauri Etela abstaining.

New Business:

Septic System Inventory: Robert Pruyne, Rockingham Planning Commission, presented maps and work completed on project to identify individual parcels with septic systems and relative age of systems. The RPC and Conservation Commission will develop a scoring scheme to identify environmental risk factors that increase the likelihood of septic system failure based on soils, proximity to surface waters, groundwater intrusion, parcel size and system age.

Old Business:

Conservation Easement Subcommittee Update: Lisa Wilson reported that an individual approached the Town about hunting on the Boies Wildlife preserve and mentioned that it appeared that someone other than the Town posted no-hunting signs on the conservation land although it was not listed on Town of North Hampton Prohibited Hunting List. The Commission has raised the issue of whether hunting is permitted with the Forest Society because the deed restrictions do not specifically prohibit hunting yet grant the town the authority to manage the land. A few members of the Commission recalled that it was the intent of the Boies family to prohibit hunting. The Forest Society confirmed that the deed grants the Town the authority to restrict or limit hunting, but said that the land should be posted with "No Hunting" signs that indicate the Boies Wildlife Preserve is owned by the Town, but without the "per deed restrictions," language recently added to the Commissions' new no hunting signs. Lisa Wilson contacted Susan Fowler Boies who recalled that that her family wanted to prohibit hunting and remembered David Boies regularly posting the land.

Andrew Vorkink reported that upon review of the Deed he noted that the Deed does not include a formal acceptance of the Boies Wildlife Preserve (Map 2 Lot 51) by the Town, which is named as the Grantee, nor does it specify the monitoring arrangement the Forest Society has with the Town following the conveyance of the land from the Forest Society to the Town in 1976. Andy recommended to the Forest Society and the Forest Society agreed that the Town file at the Registry a short acceptance by the Town to be filed with the corrective deed as well as an amendment to the Deed which clarifies the monitoring arrangement that the Forest Society has with the Town. The Commission should recommend to the Select board that the Conservation Commission act as a representative of the Town to manage the wildlife reserve under the Town's authority. *A motion was made by Lisa Wilson duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono to authorize the Chair to draft a letter to the Select Board to recommend the following:*

1. *The Town restrict hunting in view of the desires of the Boies Family, the 2001 Corrective Deed restrictions, and that the Town as the Grantee has the authority to restrict or prohibit hunting on this acreage.*
2. *The Town file at the Registry a formal acceptance of the ownership of the property under the wildlife preserve conditions, which was not included in the Corrective Deed filing in 2001.*
3. *The Conservation Commission act as a representative of the Town to manage the wildlife preserve under the Town's authority.* The motion carried.

Log Structures Found on Conservation Land: Lisa Wilson contacted WS Properties regarding removal of log foundation that was built on conservation land located on the Lafayette Crossing Conservation land. Dan Hester, Director of Strategy and Development offered to dismantle the structure and dispose of the lumber.

Leaves Dumped on Conservation Land: Lisa Wilson spoke with the owners of the property in the vicinity where leaves and debris were dumped on conservation land near the entrance of the Lafayette Crossing trail. The owners had mentioned that they have been voluntarily clearing the entrance to the trail and agreed to stop depositing debris on the conservation land from their abutting property. The owner noted that she and her husband will be selling their house and that it might be a good idea for the Conservation Commission to get in touch with the new owners about whether the easement allows the public to access the trail from their property. The Commission thanked the owners for maintaining the entrance to the trail.

Cabin on Conservation Land: The Building Inspector is waiting to receive an opinion from the Town attorney before he issues a report specifying the outcome of the inspection of the property.

Oliver Brook Trail Signage: Andy Vorkink posted five 13 x 18 maps along the trail which denote the general location of a hiker with "You Are Here" designations.

Trail Maintenance Update: Phil Thayer submitted the invoice for mowing the Community Garden.

Natural Resource Inventory Update: Lisa Wilson notified Jen Rowden that the final draft is almost complete. Jenn Rowden noted that the NRI will be included in the updated Master Plan which is to be completed early next year. Lisa plans to share the final draft with the Commission via Drop Box due to the large file. The complete inventory will be posted on the Town's website.

Philbrick Pond Saltmarsh Drainage Update: Frank Arcidiacono reported the required contracts/documents to begin the project are complete and that the estimated start date yet has not been determined. The project is to be completed between November 15, 2021 and March 15, 2022.

Other Business: Frank Arcidiacono reported that federal funds are available through a 10-year program for transportation and coastal resiliency improvement projects and will plan to contact the RPC to gather more information.

There being no further business to discuss, ***a motion was made by Lauri Etela, duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to adjourn the meeting.*** The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Moore
Recording Secretary

"These minutes were prepared within five (5) business days as required by NH RSA 91-A:2, II. They will not be finalized until approved by the majority vote by the Commission."