

**DRAFT**  
**North Hampton Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes-September 12**

**Administrative:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. via Channel 22 from the Town Hall. The agenda was posted in Compliance with RSA 91-A requirements.

**Roll Call: Members present:** Lisa Wilson, (Chair), Kathy Grant, (Vice Chair), Dave Ciccalone, Lauri Etela, Dave McGilvary, Audrey Prior and Andrew Vorkink; **Members of the public:** Sarah Stone, Rebecca Carlson, Lee Brooks, and Jeff Latimer.

**Approval of August 9, 2022 Draft Minutes:** After review of the August 9, 2022 minutes, *a motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Audrey Prior.* The motion carried.

**New Business:**

**NH School Forestry Program:** Rebecca Carlson, Curriculum Coordinator, North Hampton School presented plans to add a Forestry Stewardship program to the North Hampton School curriculum. Ms. Carlson discussed the objectives of the program. The program strives to help students develop an appreciation for the environment, a sense of place, and understanding of what it means to live in North Hampton and the beauty of the seacoast. Each class will be stewards of a section of the forest for the duration of their time at NHS. Upon graduation the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class will hand over the parcel to the kindergarten class. The program has received lots of support from the town and community. The staff at NHS is very excited to create the program as it grows over the years.

Sarah Stone, NHS Case Manager, is researching how to obtain grants to help fund the program and create nature trails that are accessible for all students with the goal of having the trail network and parcels delineated by 2024.

NHS would like to work with the the North Hampton Conservation Commission to plan/locate the trail system and wetlands crossings. It was also suggested that the Conservation Commission might be able to help with the permitting process as well as discuss options for invasive plant control.

Andy Vorkink mentioned that the program offers the opportunity to teach the students about wetlands and the wetlands systems within the town's watersheds. Lisa Wilson suggested professional trail designers might be consulted to ensure the trails meet safety and accessibility standards and that the NHS staff and the Conservation Commission conduct a site walk with representatives from the NH DES to determine the types of permits that will be needed to complete the work.

NHS will contact the Commission when it is able to schedule a site walk. Lisa Wilson is also scheduled to meet with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class on September 19, 2022 to speak about conservation and the trails that were created on conservation land acquired through the North Hampton *forever program*.

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**New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) Application for Grant Funds & Review of the Lafayette Crossing Conservation Easement:** Jeff Latimer, owner of Gus' bicycle shop, located on Lot 7-61, met with the commission to discuss a request for support of an application submitted on August 30, 2022 by Tim Mallard, President of the NEMBA Seacoast Chapter, for grant funding to replace existing bridges on the Lafayette Crossing Mall Trail conservation land with the goal of connecting cyclists to the rail trail from Gus' bicycle shop, located on Route 1. Mr. Latimer noted that the original bridges on the trails had been constructed by his son around 2013 as an Eagle Scout project signed off by a member of the commission, but that one of the bridges was now showing signs of rot because pressure treated materials could not be used at that time. After a discussion about the use of the trails, which under the easement are footpaths primarily for hikers but which do not exclude use by bicycles, Jeff confirmed that future use by bicycles was not expected to change materially with the proposed repair of one of the bridges.

The Commission noted that it supports the existing use of the Lafayette Mall Crossing Trail, but not the expanded use of the trail to provide regional access to the rail trail for bicycles as described in the grant application. The grant application proposed to establish a regional trail head for cyclists to enter the conservation land from Gus' bicycle shop, a .52 acre lot (Map 7, Lot 61) located on Route 1, privately owned commercial property.

The Commission noted it has the funds to repair the bridges and has not had any problems with the existing use of the trails and foot bridges for hikers and informal access from Gus' for the occasional bicyclist to access the trail. Jeff informed the Commission that should the Commission pay for the materials and process the needed permit with NHDES, he would provide volunteers to do the repairs. Following discussion, ***a motion was made by Andy Vorkink, seconded by Dave Ciccalone, that the Commission expressed its appreciation for the proposal by Jeff Latimer to repair two sections of the bridge. (24' by 4.5') located along the Lafayette Crossing Mall Trail. The Commission authorized the chair to proceed with the SPN application process following the withdrawal of the NEMBA application for grant funding, obtaining more information about the proposed design and estimated cost for the bridges, and receiving the approval from WS Properties, the owner of the conservation land, to proceed with the SPN permitting process.*** The motion carried unanimously.

#### Old Business:

**Conservation Easement Subcommittee Update:** Andrew Vorkink reported that Kate Dardinski is working on completing the maps and brochure. Kate will also complete a map for the Lafayette Crossing Mall Trail and will need more information about the trail from the Commission.

**Trail Maintenance Update:** Lisa Wilson reported that Denis Kokernak offered to help install and purchase sturdy aluminum no hunting signs for the Boies Wildlife Preserve. Lisa Wilson suggested that the Commission purchase the entrance sign and also some aluminum signs. ***A motion was made by***

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**Lauri Etela, duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to authorize and expenditure of up to \$500.00 for any needed signage for conservation parcels.** The motion carried.

**Philbrick Pond Saltmarsh Drainage Update:** Kathy Grant reported that the final draft of the restoration plan is prepared and the Commission will receive an update and more information in October.

**Septic System Inventory Review:** Lisa Wilson will contact Rob Pruyne for an update on the status of the project.

**Other Business:** None

**Correspondence:**

**Letter dated August 19, 2022** Trails Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN); NH DES File Number 2022-02393. The Commission received notification from the NHDES that that the work may proceed to replace the bridge along the Dustin-Booker Trail.

**Invoice for Filing of Deed:** Michelle Peckham submitted an invoice dated January 21, 2022 for filing the corrective Forest Society deed for the Boies Wildlife Preserve. ***A motion was made by Audrey Prior, duly seconded by Dave Cicilone, to authorize an expenditure of \$120.58 payable to Michelle Peckham for filing the deed with the Registry of Deeds on January 21, 2022.*** The motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, ***a motion was made by Lauri Etela, duly seconded by Kathy Grant,*** to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 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”.***