

**Conservation Commission Meeting**  
**Public Minutes**  
**June 12, 2024**

**Members Present:** Becky Dunham (Chair), Bob Stephens (Vice Chair), Andy Laroche, Lise McNaughton, Brian Silva, Matt Lipinski (Secretary), Paul Kleinman (Selectboard Rep), Doug Cowie (Alternate), Michelle Siudut (Alternate), Rob Wofchuck (Alternate).

Chairman Dunham called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and noted that with the full Commission being present, it was unnecessary to appoint any alternates as voting members for tonight's meeting.

**Agenda Items**

4. **Guest Speaker Presentation:** Anna Ormiston, GIS Manager and Special Scientist with the Nature Conservancy of New Hampshire presented via video conference on the topic of: *Sharing the Science; Resilient and Connected Network*. Ms. Ormiston went through a series of slides showing the configurations of these networks regionally, statewide, and in Brentwood. She additionally reviewed various conservation plans and priorities for the southeast NH area known as the Coastal Watershed. She advised that the Conservancy's focus is on vulnerable and unprotected areas, which represent a significant area within the Watershed. She additionally noted that resources within the Conservancy could help Brentwood with technical assistance, grant support, and GIS mapping support. After a brief Q&A period, she concluded her presentation.

1. **Minutes Review:** Review of the draft Minutes from the May 8, 2024 Commission meeting. Some corrections were noted. Motion by Laroche and second by McNaughton to approve minutes as corrected. The motion was approved 6-0-1 with Lipinski abstaining.

Reviewed draft of Public Hearing minutes from June 4, 2024. Motion by Kleinman and second by Laroche to approved minutes as written. Motion was approved 4-0 with McNaughton, Silva, and Stephens abstaining.

2. **Bills & Reimbursements:** Dunham noted that she purchased some items for the Open Space Subcommittee and is seeking reimbursement of \$53.33. Motion by Stephens, second by Laroche to approve the reimbursement. Unanimously approved.

3. **Correspondence & Notices:** Dunham advised Brentwood Fence wishes to do some improvements to its property on Hwy 125 and presented its proposal to Planning Board.

Copies of the Brentwood Housing Survey – Summary Report dated April 2024 were provided to the Commissioners.

Dunham reported that MTI Polyexe is applying to expand their facility. Will be reviewed by Planning Board.

Dunham is communicating with the Prescott Project stakeholders and offered them an opportunity to present their plan to the Commission at its July meeting.

## 5. Old Business

- a. **Perambulations – Exeter:** Stephens reported that he spoke with an official in Exeter and they will conduct their perambulation on June 20, 2024.
- b. **Conservation Commission Manual Revision:** Lipinski reported that he will schedule meetings with McNaughton and Wofchuck, and also with Siudut and Dunham, in the coming week to go through the current draft, with a plan to present an updated draft at next month's meeting.
- c. **Forest Management Capital Reserve Fund:** Selectboard agreed to retain this fund for potential use by Conservation Commission for specific purposes on certain properties.
- d. **Fuller Easement Update:** Preliminary approval from the bond bank has been received for a 15-year bond. Cost is \$20,000 for 5 years, and \$15,000 for 10 years at an interest rate of not to exceed 3.75%. Selectboard approved the Commission's recommendation to proceed with obtaining this bond.
- e. **Trails/Stevens Field:** Bob Magnuson mowed the field in May. The Commission thanks him for doing so. He will mow again later in the summer unless too wet. Dunham met with Wayne Robinson about potentially reinstalling the gate – decision TBD.
- f. **Commissioners' Terms:** Dunham confirmed that Silva and Cowie have been reappointed through 7/31/24. Siudut has been reappointed for an indefinite period. Lipinski recommended that Dunham ask Selectboard to extend Silva and Cowie beyond 7/31 if the new appointment process currently under consideration by the Selectboard has not been finalized before then. Dunham will send a sheet summarizing all Commissioners' terms to Lipinski.
- g. **July Speaker Presentation:** Wofchuck advised that Brian Hotz from the Society for Protection of NH Forests has been scheduled. Following discussion, it was determined that this presentation will be rescheduled to a later meeting.
- h. **Open Space Subcommittee:** Initial meeting was held yesterday. Discussed structure and weighting process for prioritizing properties. There are currently six land trusts which support Brentwood as potential easement holders. Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of the Town holding easements directly. Lipinski suggested deferring

further discussion until such an arrangement may be requested by a landowner on a specific parcel.

Motion by McNaughton, second by Laroche to add Heather Dudley-Tatman to the subcommittee. Unanimously approved. Discussion was held regarding retaining the consultant we previously interviewed to assist subcommittee. Lipinski will check prior minutes for status on review and approval of consultant contract. Dunham will send draft contract to Lipinski.

- i. **Pickpocket Dam Update:** Exeter's grant application to remove the dam has been denied due to exhaustion of the available grant funds to other applicants. The number of applications far exceeded the funds available. Exeter will consider other options.

## 6. **New Business**

- a. **New Easement Inquiries:** None.
- b. **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):** Dunham distributed copies of the letter dated May 22, 2024 which she received from Planning Board regarding Plan updates for 2024-2029. The Commission will resubmit its previously proposed project as detailed in the letter.
- c. **Energy and Efficiency Advisory Committee:** Lipinski advised that after serving as Conservation Commission's representative to this committee for the past two years, he will be stepping down in the next couple of months and is seeking another Commissioner to replace him. Anyone interested should contact Lipinski.
- d. **Wetlands Mitigation Guidance List:** Dunham distributed a February 2021 informational guidance document from NHDES which detailed the types of projects that can be used as local compensation for losses of wetlands and streams included on a town's "Mitigation Priority List".

## 7. **Other Business:**

- a. **Next Meeting:** Dunham advised that the next Commission meeting will be on July 10, 2024.

Upon motion by Stephens, second by McNaughton, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.