

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Public Minutes
September 11, 2024**

Members Present: Becky Dunham (Chair), Lise McNaughton, Michelle Siudut, Rob Wofchuck, Matt Lipinski (Secretary), Andy Laroche (Alternate), Patrick Marcoux (Alternate), Heather Dudley-Tatman (Alternate), Letty Bedard for Paul Kleinman (Selectboard Rep) – arrived 6:35.

Chairman Dunham called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Motion by Lipinski to make Laroche and Marcoux voting members at tonight’s meeting. Siudut seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Upon Bedard’s arrival, Marcoux removed himself as a voting member in deference to the Selectboard Rep.

Agenda Items (Item numbers correspond to the sequence shown on posted agenda)

1. **Minutes Review:** The minutes of the Commission’s August 14, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Motion by McNaughton to approve the minutes. Wofchuck seconded and the motion was approved 6-0 with Bedard abstaining.
2. **Bills & Reimbursements:** Two bills were reviewed. The first is a reimbursement to Dunham of \$43.80 spent on postage. Upon motion by Lipinski and second by McNaughton, the motion to reimburse Dunham was unanimously approved. The second bill is a \$60.00 invoice for 3 copies of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) manual. Upon motion by McNaughton and second by Laroche, payment of the invoice was unanimously approved.
3. **Presentation by Bayside Distributors:** Vincent Brigagliano presented a proposal to the Commission about the planned construction of an open-face structure on an existing concrete pad at 277 Rte. 125, Tax Map reference #: 209.069. The structure is essentially a series of support poles holding up a steel roof, which will be used for storing kegs. The existence of the structure is expected to improve and reduce the amount of salt and sand runoff currently migrating into adjacent wetlands. Other than installation of the poles, there will be no changes made to the existing pad. Dunham stated she spoke with Glenn Greenwood, who supported the plan. Following discussion, Wofchuck proposed a motion stating the Commission has no objection to the proposed plan, given the existing paved pad area and the positive effect of reduced salt and sand runoff which the structure would provide. Laroche seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **R.E. Prescott Project on Rte. 27:** The letter to DES, which was previously recommended by the Commission, was sent by the Town Administrator on or about August 19, 2024.

- b. **MTI Site Walk, Pine Road:** The planned walk has occurred and a report has been submitted by TEC Engineering raising several questions and requirements, as referenced in a letter to the Planning Board dated September 4, 2024. Planning Board will address them at its September 19, 2024 meeting.
- c. **Open Space Subcommittee:** Dunham provided a report on the subcommittee's activities and in particular, a planned event entitled Conservation Conversations, which is scheduled for October 3, 2024, from 7:00 to 8:30pm at the Brentwood Library. Duane Hyde, Land Conservation Director at SELT, will be the guest speaker to lead a conversation with landowners who have purchased land with conservation easements and their experiences regarding those easements. Invitation letters have been sent to 28 identified property owners. Dunham asked all Conservation Commissioners to attend this important session, which is open to the public. She additionally recognized the Subcommittee members for their diligent work in organizing this event as part of their plan of action to attract additional conservation properties.
- d. **Trails Walk:** A walk of the Brentwood Recreation property trails is scheduled for September 24, 2024 at 1:00pm. The group involved in the walk will assess and evaluate existing trail conditions and recommend ideas for improvement. Anyone interested may join the walk. Meet at the Rec Center.
- e. **Stevens Field Walk:** The Stevens field will be walked on September 20, 2024 to check restoration needs and develop plans for meeting those needs, including availability of grant money to subsidize those efforts. Matt Tarr, UNH professor and wildlife biologist, will assist with grant applications. All interested in joining the walk should meet at the field entrance on Haigh Road.
- f. **Fuller Easement Update:** Bond funding for this easement has been approved and the proceeds have been deposited in the Town's account. A phase 1 environmental assessment has also been completed. SELT will schedule a meeting with the landowners to review and agree on easement terms.
- g. **NHACC Conference:** Commissioners who wish to attend the NHACC's annual meeting and conference with Dunham on November 2, 2024 should advise her of their interest.

5. New Business

- a. **Annual Monitoring of Easements:** McNaughton advised we have approximately 20 easements which require monitoring each year, one of which has been completed, and she is seeking volunteers to help with that effort. Some of the Commissioners and other members of the Town have already stepped up, and Dunham encouraged all to participate as they may be available. McNaughton noted the names of additional individuals offering to help.

- b. **371 South Road:** A complaint has been filed with DES by a neighbor to this 24-acre property about certain work taking place on it. The Town has been notified. DES will adjudicate the complaint at a time and date TBD.
- c. **2025 Budget:** Per recent discussions by the Selectboard, it has been suggested that all departments, commissions, boards and committees should submit a preliminary budget by September 25, 2024. Dunham will lead this effort. A final budget from the Commission is due on October 15, 2024.
- d. **Cemetery Trustees:** Jim Hajjar, Chairman of the Town’s Cemetery Trustees, will provide a presentation to the Commission regarding existing cemeteries and their status at our October meeting.
- e. **October Guest Presentation:** Dunham will follow up with Stephens regarding a planned speaker. Wofchuck also offered to help find a speaker for that meeting if necessary.
- f. **New Easement Inquiries:** None.

6. **Other Business:**

- a. **Miscellaneous Announcements:**
 - i. A “grants and insights” informational meeting will be taking place. Dunham will attend and keep the Commission apprised.
 - ii. Dunham circulated a flier on the NHACC’s upcoming Lunch ‘n Learn programs. Commissioners interested in attending these virtual workshops should register on the NHACC website.
 - iii. A “green snow” meeting will be held on October 9, 2024. Some Planning Board and Selectboard members will attend. The purpose of the meeting is to train attendees on how to calibrate salt usage in order to reduce environmental impacts.
- b. **Next Meeting:** Dunham advised that the next Commission meeting will be on October 9, 2024.

Upon motion by Lipinski, second by McNaughton, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned by Dunham at approximately 7:39pm.