

# **Brentwood Conservation Commission**

Meeting Minutes - February 12, 2025

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*Members Present:* Chair Becky Dunham, Secretary Michelle Siudut, Rob Wofchuck, Matt Lipinski, Lise McNaughton

*Alternates present:* Patrick Marcoux, Heather Dudley-Tatman, Doug Cowie, Andy Laroche, Emma Laham

*Guests:* Jeff Dvorak, Bruce Stevens, Robin Wrighton

Dunham called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Motion by Lipinski, seconded by Siudut to allow Patrick Marcoux and Heather Dudley-Tatman to voting members.

## **Minutes Review**

Motion by Lipinski, seconded by McNaughton to approve minutes from January 8, 2025 as amended, approved 7-0-0. VOTE REVISED later in the meeting, to 3-0-1.

## **Bills & Reimbursements**

Bob Magnusson submitted an invoice for \$52.97 for gas. Motion by Dudley-Tatman, seconded by Marcoux to approve. Dunham will submit for payment tomorrow.

## **Old Business**

Easement Monitoring. One left to complete

Budget encumbrance. We had a balance of \$3,100 remaining; requested \$3,000 be encumbered for our consultant for next year. Wofchuck requested a copy of the ConCom's budget for 2025.

Conservation Stewardship Fund. Tabled to next meeting

Pickpocket Dam. Upcoming dates for events on this project to be held in Exeter 2/15, 2/27 3/9.

Recreation Update. Last month ConCom forwarded concerns about Rec Department plans for field drainage. Rec Director has met with landscaper; they will develop a response to our concerns.

2024 Annual Report. Dunham share the report she submitted for the Town Annual Report.

OSC Meeting February 18 at 4:30 pm. Dunham is working on an article for Brentwood Newsletter about the conservation easements. The OSC will continue to meet with landowners.

ConCom Speaker Series. Our March speaker will be Emily Nichols from NH Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program. Bruce Stevens has invited a speaker from UNH to discuss the GreenSno program at our May 14 meeting. We'll start earlier, at 6pm to have him speak first. Bruce will confirm the speaker and will invite Planning, Selectboard, Highway Department.

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The new town administrator has been invited to attend a meeting to introduce herself. Another suggestion for a speaker was a staff member from USDA in Epping.

Community Events - Patrick Marcoux.

- a. Roadside Cleanup. April 22 is Earth Day which is a Tuesday. Roadside cleanup is set for Apr 26. We are hoping to coordinate with the elementary school for help. ConCom will provide coffee/donuts.
- b. F&G Wildlife Stewardship program. These are one hour presentations made for adult audience, provided at no cost. We need a 3 month lead time to schedule; Marcoux will speak with the Library about hosting a date in May. Topics are Black Bear, Brook Trout, Moose, Bobcat.

## New Business

- a. Commissioner February term expiration. Matt Lipinski's term on the ConCom ends this month. Lipinski was thanked for serving as secretary and his participation. With Lipinski leaving, Becky would like to recommend Marcoux as a full member. He is also currently on the EE board (in Lipinski's place).
- b. Community-wide town event. Siudut discussed Brentwood Gathering to be held on April 3 at the Rec Center. All members were in favor of having the ConCom participate in the event.
- c. Conservation and Education - Emma Laham shared ideas for engaging local youth in conservation. Laham would like us to do something for the trails in town (Exeter has a Trail Passport; Nottingham has something similar). Dudley-Tatman suggested we have a contest for a badge after completing some number of trails. Other considerations: vernal pool walk (we used to do these); geocaches; scavenger hunt. Laham will work on more of a plan; please send ideas to her.
- d. Marcoux discussed SB55, which would decrease the cost to take property out of current use; this could negatively impact conservation; if you are moved to send testimony, please do.

## Other Business

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 12 at 6:30

A motion was made by Wofchuck at 7:24 pm, seconded by Marcoux to go into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II(d), and to include Stevens, Dvorak, Laham, Cowie, Laroche, Wrighton. Voting were Siudut - aye, Lipinski - aye, Dudley-Tatman - aye, Wofchuck - aye, Marcoux - aye, McNaughton - aye, Dunham - aye.

Motion by Lipinski, seconded by McNaughton to come out of non-public at 8:40 pm. Voting McNaughton - aye, Marcoux - aye, Wofchuck - aye, Dudley-Tatman - aye, Lipinski - aye, Siudut - aye, Dunham - aye.

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Motion by Lipinski, seconded by McNaughton, to approve and seal non-public minutes from January 8, 2025. Voting McNaughton - aye, Marcoux - aye, Wofchuck - abstain, Dudley-Tatman - aye, Lipinski - aye, Siudut - aye, Dunham - aye.

Bruce Stevens would like to donate a small parcel of land to town. No appraisal would be required, as he will sign it over; would just ask the town to pay for transfer fees (potential to use conservation fund for this, but not Bond money). Possible use as a cemetery, otherwise just for town recreation. Stevens will maintain the property until the town has a use for it.

Marcoux would like to consider finding out what Forestry CRF money can be used for, as the language is vague. This will require review of the CRF.

Motion by Lipinski, seconded by Marcoux to adjourn; passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Siudut  
Secretary