

Brentwood Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes - March 12, 2025

Members present: Chair Becky Dunham, Secretary Michelle Siudut, Lise McNaughton, Rob Wofchuck, Paul Kleinman, Bob Stephens

Alternates present: Heather Dudley-Tatman, Doug Cowie, Patrick Marcoux

Guests: Jeff Dvorak, Deb Briscoe, Bruce Stevens, Robin Wrighton, Emily Nichols, Seta Detzel

Dunham called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Motion by Dunham, seconded by Stephens to allow Dudley-Tatman as a voting member.

Minutes Review. Minutes from the February 12 2025 meeting were discussed. Motion by Dudley-Tatman, seconded by McNaughton to approve as amended; passed 5-0-2

Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund Presentation

Emily Nichols (ARM Fund manager) and Seta Detzel (wetland mitigation specialist) presented. ARM Fund Program collects payments to mitigate for unavoidable impacts to wetland, streams and other aquatic resources. Funds are distributed through grants within watersheds where projects occur. Grants for 2025 have not yet been determined, but \$736,727 will be available for projects in the Salmon Falls watershed (of which Brentwood is part of). Presenters provided an overview of mitigation, which is part of the process to obtain wetland permit approval. Mitigation is defined as activities or projects designed to offset the unavoidable permanent impacts to jurisdictional areas. Mitigation is not always necessary, certain thresholds must be met. There are two pathways to mitigation - in-lieu fee (ILF) or permittee-responsible mitigation (PRM). Fees are based on the cost to replace the resource as well as implementation fees. Funds carry over for up to 3 years. Although requirements shifted with federal statute, NH regulation still requires support for NH projects. Projects considered for mitigation include wetland or stream restoration, enhancement of resource functions, establishment/creation (in uplands), preservation. Projects that will sustain important aquatic resource functions over the long term at the watershed scale are considered good options for mitigation. ConCom should create priority list to include multiple projects; develop natural resource inventory; develop list of potential restoration/enhancement opportunities; prioritize permanent protection of high value, difficult to replace resources and connectivity corridors; collaborate with land trusts/land owners; establish easements on town-owned land not already protected; consider restoration opportunities on existing conserved town-owned land. Presenters are available to discuss potential projects and have tools to help determine assessment, etc. Upcoming ARM informational dates: Apr 8 NH mitigation summit; Apr 16 ARM Fund grant round office hour. Marcoux asked if mitigation would be a necessity for removal of Exeter Dam. More information would be needed; ARM does not make determinations, they manage funding. Slideshow presentation will be provided to commission.

Old Business

- Pickpocket Dam. Dunham reported Exeter voted to approve removal of Pickpocket Dam for \$2M. We need to keep on top of the project and stay in contact with Andrew Fisk.

- Recreation. ConCom sent a letter to Rec Department outlining concerns about plans for drainage and fertilization. Rec Director said the contractor claims there will be no negative impact to the vernal pools. ConCom suggests Selectboard require further information on fertilizer to be used and proof of potential damage/lack thereof, before approving the project. Dudley-Tatman suggested a site walk to understand boundaries of vernal pool and the impact area of treatment; areas of concern should be flagged.
- Open Space Committee. OSC met earlier today; they continue to reach out to potential property owners and will increase exposure through Brentwood Newsletter articles.
- GreenSnow will provide an hour-long presentation on May 14 at 6 pm. Bruce Stevens has arranged this and will invite other boards, selectboard to attend.
- Dunham provided a list of potential speakers; requested additional suggestions.
- April 26 is roadside cleanup. Maroux has reached out to school to involve students.
- Marcoux still working on F&G program
- Siudut reviewed progress of Brentwood Gathering for which we will need ConCom volunteers. Set up will be at 5pm; a table will be provided; bring brochures, map, etc. Briscoe would like a Trails table.
- Briscoe talked about Laham's trail walk idea. Briscoe said they plan to walk appropriate properties so Laham can create the walk, etc.

New Business

- Dunham discussed the Statement of Interest form. Requested feedback by commission members by April 1 (before next meeting).
- Grants may be available to help maintain the upper field at Stevens field. Dunham will discuss next steps with Matt Tarr (UNH / NH F&G small grant).
- Marcoux said Kris Magnusson is the interim chair of the Energy & Efficiency committee.
- Stephens questioned if he could remove a felled tree off of a Class 6 road. Stevens said that should not be a problem.

Motion by Wofchuck at 7:51 pm, seconded by McNaughton to go into non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II(d), to include Dvorak, Cowie, Wrighton. Voting in favor were Siudut, Dudley-Tatman, Stephens, Kleinman, Wofchuck, McNaughton, Dunham; passed 7-0.

Motion by Stephens at 8:45 pm, seconded by Dudley-Tatman to return to public session. Voting in favor were Stephens, Dudley-Tatman, Kleinman, Wofchuck, McNaughton, Siudut, Dunham; passed 7-0. Motion by Wofchuck, seconded by McNaughton to approve and seal the non-public February 2 2025 minutes as amended; motion passed 4-0-3.

Upcoming Activities

Thursday, April 3 at 6 pm: Brentwood Gathering at Rec Center

Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30 pm: Conservation Commission Meeting

Saturday, April 26 at 8 am: Town Roadside Cleanup

Wednesday, May 14 at 6 pm: Conservation Commission Meeting **note early start time*

Motion by Dudley-Tatman, seconded by Stephens to adjourn at 8:47 pm; approved 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary