

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS**  
**Conservation Commission**  
Meeting Minutes March 9, 2021

L. Spencer called the meeting held via Zoom to order at 4:124PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Members Present:

Larry Spencer, Chairman                      Anne Packard, Vice Chair                      April Sargent                      Ben Amsden

Members Not Present:

Bill Nesheim                      Shelagh Connelly                      Brian Gagnon  
Woodie Laverack, Ex-Officio

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOTION: "To approve the minutes of February 9, 2021 as presented."

Motion:

Second:

Discussion: None

Motion passes: 4 – YES    0 - NO

**MAIL CHECK:**

L. Spencer noted information regarding the NHTOA Spring workshop is available and there is funding in the Conservation Commission budget to cover the cost if members want to attend.

L. Spencer discussed the research being done to improve the resistance chestnut trees have against blight.

L. Spencer discussed an issue with "flying carp" fish moving from the Chicago River to Lake Michigan.

**OLD ITEMS:**

Survey of the Howe Town Forest and study of the town needs for the DPW parcel:

L. Spencer stated that he expects the Board of Selectmen will follow up on this issue after the annual town meeting.

L. Spencer noted that the funding in the Conservation Commission budget is only available through June 30, 2021.

Update on the Oxbow Land and Water Conservation Fund proposal:

L. Spencer reviewed what has been done to meet the requests for more information from the State.

L. Spencer stated the State has been notified that the Town of Holderness will be purchasing the properties and is the single entity submitting the grant.

L. Spencer stated a Memorandum of Understanding will be drawn up with the White Mountain Bike Association for the maintenance of the trails.

L. Spencer stated that the decision on the grant should be made by the first part of July 2021.

Trail signs:

L. Spencer stated he has been looking into adding contour lines and/or shaded hillside which shows heights and elevations.

L. Spencer noted W. Nesheim has indicated there has been a lot of people using the trails.

Knotweed at the Transfer Station:

L. Spencer stated that the Commission members can decide what to do at the April meeting once the snow is gone.

**NEW ITEMS:**

Signed permits from February:

L. Spencer stated that he had not signed any applications in February.

Update on Conservation Matters column in the Record Enterprise:

L. Spencer stated he emailed the Committee members a copy of Anne Packard's column for the Record Enterprise.  
A. Packard gave a word of thanks for assistance she received from Katri Gurney at SLA.

Important legislative items before the NH House and Senate:

L. Spencer there is a bill to make it so that conservation easements can be amended.  
L. Spencer stated the bill has been changed to a study group as the initial response to the bill was mostly negative.

Update on terms for members:

It was determined that the Board of Selectmen have the letters of interest from L. Spencer and B. Amsden and should be taking action on those soon.

A. Packard stated that B. Gagnon has resigned as a member of the Conservation Commission.

Monitoring Report of White Oak Pond property:

L. Spencer thanked B. Nesheim for submitting the monitoring report for the White Oak Pond property.

NHTOA membership:

L. Spencer stated the annual membership fee is due.

**MOTION: "To pay the membership fee for NHTOA".**

Motion: B. Amsden

Second: A. Packard

Motion passed: 4 - YES                      0 - No

Other items as needed:

1. L. Spencer stated the Holderness Recreation Department has requested to use the Town Forest trails to hold an Easter Egg hunt.
2. L. Spencer stated the NH Association of Conservation Commissions is planning to hold a celebration event for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 11, 2021.
3. L. Spencer stated he responded to the gentleman from UNH doing research on Conservation matters and encouraged other committee members to take the survey as well.
4. L. Spencer stated that Hubbard Brook and the League of Conservation Voters included the topic of social justice at their conference which was interesting.  
L. Spencer stated one of the quest speakers is currently serving in the Biden administration and oversees the conservation programs that receive funding

**UP-COMING MEETINGS:**

Saving Special Places: Friday April 9, 2021 from 10:00 to Noon and Saturday, April 10, 2021 from 9:00 to Noon.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 4:00pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Decoteau, Land Use Boards Assistant