

TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes April 13, 2021

L. Spencer called the meeting held via Zoom to order at 4:00PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Members Present:

Larry Spencer, Chairman Bill Nesheim Ben Amsden

Members Not Present:

Brian Gagnon Shelagh Connelly April Sargent
Anne Packard, vice Chair Woodie Laverack, Ex-Officio

Others Present:

Phillip Peck	Natalie Cleavitt	Nancy Isikoff	Dee Hopper
Margie Bogdanow	Roger Uhler	Bryan Sweeney	Cici Cyr
Bennett Evans	Anne Levin	Tyson Morrill	Bruce Falby
Yvonne VanGessel	Anne Knight	Margot Riley	Sara Cohen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

With only 3 members present, it was determined to approve the minutes of March 9, 2021 at the May meeting.

MAIL CHECK:

There were no items to review in the mail folder.

OLD ITEMS:

Survey of the Howe Town Forest: B. Nesheim stated there is nothing to report as the subcommittee has not met.

Trail signs: L. Spencer stated it was suggested that the background color be changed to green and to use colored lines to identify the trails. B. Nesheim stated the blazes on the trails should match the color of trail as shown on the map. B. Amsden stated having the topography on the trail map was beneficial and pointed out that the scale on the map needs to be fixed.

Knotweed at the Transfer Station:

April Sargent was not present to update the Commission on this project.

White Oak Pond Monitoring: B. Nesheim stated that he completed the monitoring report of the White Oak Pond parcel. No signs of disturbances were observed.

Saving Special Places Conference: Held virtually Friday, April 9 from 10:00 to 12:00 and Saturday, April 10 from 9:00 to 12:00. L. Spencer stated the Saturday session he attended was very good.

NEW ITEMS:

Holderness School Project: Improvement of Nordic Ski Trails

P. Peck made a brief presentation which included the following points:

- Will Davis of Horizons Engineering is doing the site work.
- Trails will be widened so Holderness School can host national caliber events.
- Lighting will be added to some of the trails.
- Snow making ability will be included for some of the trails.
- A pond will be created to serve as the water source for the snowmaking.
- The pond will be stocked with fish.
- The improvements will benefit both Holderness School and the surrounding community.

M. Riley, COO of Holderness School added the following comments:

- The Stadium will be improved – providing a better experience for spectators.
- The Holderness School has a great trail system in an exceptional natural area.

- The expectation is to make snow at the beginning of the season and to provide snowmaking for the stadium area as it has the most exposure to the sun, but it is not expected to be making snow for all the trails for the full duration of the season.

Will Davis of Horizons Engineering stated a full assessment of the vernal pools in the area will be made.

Cyanobacteria in White Oak Pond:

Tyson Morrill, Director of Conservation at the Squam Lakes Association, provided information on cyanobacteria in White Oak Pond which included the following:

- Small bloom found in 2017 in Deep Haven on Squam.
- In 2018 a bloom at Mooney Point was found.
- White Oak Pond sampling was done beginning in September 2020.
- Advisory issued – and lifted in late September.
- Blooms also found in Nippo Pond, Webster Lake and Danforth Ponds and Swains Lake.
- Monitoring will continue this year at the same baseline locations.
- Looking into how NH DES will be involved.
- Information on blooms occurring and warnings being issued will be forwarded to the Commission.

Nancy Isikoff, White Oak Pond Watershed Association member, stated the following:

- Dr. Van der Poll's Natural Resource Inventory Report will be forwarded to the Commission
- It finds that rising phosphorus levels and high salt use on area roads could lead to a chain reaction with negative impacts on the environment.
- A new subdivision is being proposed off Coxboro Road and the WOPWA is concerned about the impact to White Oak Pond – and suggested the Conservation Commission require an environmental impact study be done.

L. Spencer stated the Conservation Commission may be asked to comment on the proposed subdivision.

B. Nesheim stated that members of the public are allowed to raise concerns at the Planning Board public hearing for the subdivision.

Signed Permits: L. Spencer stated there were no new permits submitted for signature in March.

Conservation Matters Column: L. Spencer stated the column will be in the Record Enterprise.

Howe Town Forest – Natalie L. Cleavitt: N. Cleavitt gave a presentation regarding lichen found in the Howe Town Forest – the second recording of Parmeliella Triptophylla (Black Bordered Shingle Lichen) in the State of New Hampshire.

Town Forest/Easter Egg Hunt: L. Spencer reported that the Easter Egg Hunt held by the Recreation Department on the Town Forest was successful.

Election of Officers: It was determined to elect officers at the next meeting as there was not a quorum present.

UP-COMING MEETINGS:

L. Spencer stated he will not be present at the May 11, 2021 meeting.

The Conservation Commission will meet in June but will not meet in July or August.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Decoteau, Land Use Boards Assistant