

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES, May 9, 2023**

Larry Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:00

Commissioners Present: Larry Spencer, Anne Packard, Woodie Laverack, April Sargent, and Bill Nesheim, Ben Amsden

Not Present: Shelagh Connelly

Also Present: Lucinda Hannus, Land Use Administrator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 11, 2023

**“Motion to approve the minutes as submitted “– April Sargent
Second – Bill Nesheim**

Approved: 6- Yes, 0- No

MAIL CHECK: Mr. Spencer reviewed the mail: National Woodlands magazine, NHDES PBN Squam Lakes Boat Livery, Lakes Congress notification, Bill Nesheim indicated he was planning on attending, Eversource ROW work permit, NHDES Dredge and Fill Wetlands permit request for more info. 19 Red Lodge Rd.

OLD ITEMS:

1. Trails – Work still needs to be done clearing and weed whacking. B. Nesheim has reached out to the town’s road agent to use equipment. Planning on doing work next week prior to forest walk on the 20th.
2. LWCF Grant Application –Mr. Spencer indicated he had received several questions on the application that seemed immaterial to the application and was getting the sense that the state was delaying the project for some reason. He mentioned that the Commission may want to consider seeking funding from either the LCHIP program or the Forest Legacy Fund. Mr. Spencer has reached out to the property owner who is still interested in selling to the town so alternative funding will be pursued.
3. Mr. Nesheim indicated that the town forest walk is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th and requested a news item be placed on the town’s website.
4. Mr. Spencer commented that the proposed bill to eliminate the certification requirements for wetland scientists and other professionals seems to have died and is not

being pushed through for this year at least. Several other bills about zoom meetings, Dept. of Ag. Produce sales and Cyanobacteria were moving ahead.

5. Earth Day event- General discussion on the success of the event from members, did not seem to be a lot of trash along roadways this year was a common sense from participants. Some discussion about dog waste not being picked up along town trails and L. Spencer asked the members if they thought signage was needed. Several members stated that a sign may help but did not want to see bag dispensers or trash cans added as they appear to cause their own problems.

NEW ITEMS:

1. Mr. Spencer discussed the alternative approach being used elsewhere for controlling Knot Weed by having goats eat it. Although interesting not sure that it is feasible at the town's locations. Will continue with the mulch and cover which is a long-term effort. A. Sargent reminded members that no amount of Knot Weed can be transported anywhere in NH due to its ability to propagate so easily.
2. Mr. Spencer spoke to the ongoing effort to purchase the Anne Russell "Town Farm" property. Met on the property with the owner and some family members recently to discuss. Will pursue further.
3. Mr. Spencer indicated that the next meeting will be June 20th and there will be no July or August meeting.
4. B. Amsden inquired as to if any members seen bicycle riders on any of the town trails? No one has seen them but L. Spencer reminded members that lands purchased using LCHIP monies are limited in what the town can restrict as far as uses.
5. L. Spencer demonstrated the open software QGIS that he has been using and demonstrated a workshop he did at the NE Natural History Conference in Burlington, VT. He explained about the variety and types of analysis and overlays of spatial data that can be produced using free, available raster and vector files from a variety of sources such as NH Granit, NRCS, Regional Planning Commissions, USGS and others.

Next Meeting is June 13, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Lucinda M. Hannus
Land Use Administrator