

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES, March 8, 2022**

Larry Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:15PM

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Larry Spencer, Anne Packard, April Sargent and Ben Amsden

Not Present: Shelagh Connelly, Bill Nesheim and Woodie Laverack, Ex Officio.

Also Present: Michael Capone, Town Administrator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 8, 2022 – The minutes were approved as written

MAIL CHECK: Mr. Spencer reviewed the following items with those present.

NHDES Supply lines 2022 Winter Edition
NHTOA 2022 Spring Brochure
Timber Crier Magazine 2022 Magazine

OLD ITEMS:

1. **Kiosks and trail maps** – Mr. Spencer will be preparing trail maps to be placed at the kiosk and will post copies at the trail junctions.
2. **Mowing of open area and trail maintenance items** – no bill has been received for this work. Mr. Spencer contacted John and left a message for him. He has not called back.
3. **Status of the projects at the Holderness School** – Mr. Spencer provided an update on some of the activity he has observed regarding the new turf fields and the retention pond projects at Holderness School. It appears the work on digging the pond has been completed. Some of the material removed for the pond has been placed in the area will the new fields will be constructed.

NEW ITEMS:

4. **Important legislative items before the NH House and Senate** – Mr. Spencer reviewed and the Commissioners discussed some of the legislation of interest to the Commission. It was noted that the bills had been considered by the House and were now being sent to the Senate for discussion.

5. **Status of Ox Bow LWCF grant** – Mr. Spencer made the following motion: The Holderness Conservation Commission approves an application to the Land and Water Conservation Grant Fund written by the commission with the cooperation of the Plymouth Conservation Commission to purchase properties, facilitate trail development and maintenance and to develop a management plan for the area known as the oxbows.

Ms. Packard provided a second.

Mr. Spencer provided an update to the Commissioners regarding the application. He noted that it was going to have to be reentered online. His reason for asking for the motion was to cover the possibility that the Commission's original motion, voted last fall, may not be valid for submission with the online application. He also mentioned that the yellow book assessments had been completed, but will still have to be reviewed and reverified again.

Mr. Spencer also reviewed some of the numbers for purchasing the properties noting that the Commission may have to commit more funds to the project.

There being no further discussion, the Commissioner's voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

6. **Winter trail days on the properties** – Mr. Spencer noted that Mr. Nesheim was going to provide an update, but he is not present this afternoon.
7. **Presentation Review**—Report on Nature's Best Hope: Native landscape garden design-February 28th, 7 pm, Doug Tallamy presentation at Durham Conservation Commission.
Mr. Spencer mentioned that this was an interesting presentation and provided some websites the Commissioners might visit if they wish to learn more about the topic.

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org> ii.

<https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/>

8. **Other items as needed:** The Squam Lakes Conservation Society would like to speak to the Commission regarding a parcel in White Oak Pond to see if it could be transferred to them. Roger Larochelle will attend a future meeting.

-The Recreation Department had contacted Mr. Spencer to see if they could have their Easter egg hunt at the Town Forest again this year. The Commissioner's felt that would be fine.

-Mr. Spencer asked if the Commissioners felt they should close the Conservation property trails during mud season. The sense of those present was the trails should be monitored and closed if it became necessary.

- Mr. Spencer suggested that perhaps the annual meeting of Conservation Commissions could be held at Livermore Falls. The Commissioners felt that would be a good idea.

- Mr. Spencer also asked if the Commissioners would access the NH Conservation Commissions website and provide feedback on its usefulness.

- There was brief discussion regarding another Knotweed control project this year.

9. Next regular Commission Meeting, Tuesday, April 12, 2022

10. Saving Special Places—April 1st and 2nd—Virtual Meeting

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael R. Capone
Town Administrator