

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES, April 12, 2022**

Larry Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:05PM

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Larry Spencer, Anne Packard, Shelagh Connelly and Bill Nesheim

Not Present: Ben Amsden, April Sargent and Woodie Laverack, Ex Officio.

Also Present: Michael Capone, Town Administrator, Roger Larochelle and Peter Helm from the Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS)

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

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

Grafton County Conservation District Annual Report, NHTOA 2022 Annual Meeting Registration Form.

OLD ITEMS:

1. **Kiosks and trail maps** – Bill will finish making up the trail signs.
2. **Mowing of open area and trail maintenance items** – the bill for this work was received
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 where the new fields will be constructed. The new Dormitory is in place and work on the ski trails is ongoing.
4. **Important legislative items before the NH House and Senate** – Mr. Spencer reported that the Bill for allowing remote meetings appears to still have the requirement that a quorum be present in it.

SLCS

Larry welcomed Peter Helm and Roger Larochelle to the meeting. Roger and Peter were present to provide an update on some of the acquisitions they are working on for the SLCS as part of the Forever Squam initiative. A number of these are not in Holderness but are relevant to the Societies effort.

Ms. Connelly asked if some consideration could be given to noting what properties allow public access versus those that do not. Roger and Peter explained that they try to get the word out as best they can, but will try to have a more consistent result.

Among the properties in Holderness under consideration is an 8.5-acre parcel on White Oak Pond (Map 245 Lot 067) managed by the Conservation Commission. This parcel is adjacent to a larger parcel managed by the SLCS and Mr. Larochelle asked if it made more sense for the SLCS to manage both properties.

Mr. Spencer made a motion that the Conservation Commission transfer the title for the 8.5-acre parcel on White Oak Pond (Map 245 Lot 067) to the SLCS subject to approval by the Select Board. Ms. Packard provided a second. Those present discussed the matter further and agreed that it made more sense for the SLCS to manage both parcels. With no further discussion to be had the Commissioners voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Roger and Peter also discussed the 14+ acre parcel recently acquired by the Town on Route 175 for back taxes (Map 239 Lot 039). The SLCS would like to speak with the Town about acquiring this parcel as it will help in the efforts to build a link to nearby SLCS parcels on the West Squam Range.

Mr. Spencer made a motion that the Conservation Commission recommend that the Select Board consider donating this parcel to the SLCS. Ms. Packard provided a second. With no further discussion to be had the Commissioners voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Roger and Peter asked if there was anything the SLCS could do for the Commission. Mr. Spencer provided an update on the Oxbow LWCF grant application presently under review by the State. If the grant should be approved the Commission may need some assistance with filing some of the forms required as a consequence of acceptance.

The Commissioners thanked Roger and Peter for the update.

5. **Earth Day** – Mr. Spencer asked if the Commissioners each would like to adopt a road to clean up on Earth Day. There was a discussion regarding locating the reserve of blue bags used for the cleanup effort. The Town Administrator will try to locate the bags.

6. Next regular Commission Meeting, Tuesday, May 10, 2022

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael R. Capone
Town Administrator