

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES, May 10, 2022**

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

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: *Larry Spencer, Anne Packard, Shelagh Connelly, April Sargent and Woodie Laverack, Ex Officio*

Not Present: *Bill Nesheim, Ben Amsden*

Also Present: Michael Capone, Town Administrator, Lucinda Hannus, Town Land Use Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 12, 2022 – *The minutes were approved as written*

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

NH DES Permit Application for shoreline alteration

Quarterly Timber Crier Magazine

OLD ITEMS:

1. Kiosks, signs and trail maps – Bill was to finish making up trail signs but was not present at this meeting to provide an update. Ms. Packard advised board that a local community group recently hiked the Pilote Town Forest trails.
2. Status of the projects at the Holderness School – Mr. Spencer advised board that work is almost complete at the new dormitory site and that work is ongoing at the turf fields and the retention pond projects at Holderness School.
3. Important legislative items before the NH House and Senate – Mr. Spencer reported that legislation regarding remote meetings appears to have failed to advance and has been tabled, other legislation of interest to the CC in regards to the Upland Invasive Species Program was voted Ought to Pass with an amendment to include an appropriation to fund the program and has moved on to the House Environment and Agriculture committee.

4. Status of Ox Bow LWCF grant – Mr. Spencer explained that a Yellow Book assessment of the Ox Bow properties must be included in the LWCF grant application. Mr. Spencer also explained the need for an assessment of the Yellow Book assessments. Plymouth paid for the initial Yellow Book assessment but funds will be needed in the amount of approximately \$2,430.00 for half of the cost to hire a Bangor, Maine assessor to complete the assessment of the assessments. This expense cannot be included in the project costs in the grant application. The Plymouth Conservation Commission has signed a contract with a Bangor, ME assessor to complete this task. Ms. Connelly asked if shouldn't the Town of Holderness CC pay for the entire cost of the assessment of the Yellow Book assessments since Plymouth paid the full cost of the Yellow Book Assessment? Mr. Spencer stated that that full amount was not in the budget. Mr. Spencer advised the board that he has learned that the Plymouth Athletic Club (PAC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Holderness Conservation Commission has been withdrawn by the PAC. They are pursuing the sale of the property to another buyer. His contact on this is Woody Miller a local realtor. Ms. Connelly asked if the PAC was fully aware of the scope of the project and questioned why they are backing out on the agreement. Ms. Connelly requested that the chairman submit a one-page summary of the project and the status of the grant application to the PAC. If this property is sold and not part of the project the trails around the Ox Bow would be eliminated. Mr. Spencer stated that the grant application is currently at NPS undergoing compliance review and should be returned around the first of June. Once compliance is accomplished the chairman stated he would send that information along with a narrative of the project to the PAC.
5. Monitoring—Mr. Spencer reiterated that monitoring of town conservation property needs to be done and the sooner the better and needs to be done before winter.
6. Knotweed— Ms. Sargent updated the board on the status of inspecting the transfer station and making arrangements, acquiring materials and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for controlling the Knotweed. Need to obtain a non-woven fabric such as a black 7mil plastic or rubber roofing to smother this invasive plant. She will ask the employees at the transfer station to be on the lookout for suitable materials and have them set aside for the project. Ms. Sargent will also be setting a date in the near future for this work.

NEW ITEMS:

1. **Motion:** To fund ½ of the assessment of the assessment costs of the yellow-book assessments done on the oxbow properties. (Note: this cost will be approximately \$2430). The assessment of the assessments is being done by an assessor in Bangor, Maine. The Plymouth Conservation Commission paid for the yellow-book assessments and will pay the other half of the assessment of the assessments.

Ms. Connelly made a motion to move forward with the assessment of the Yellow Book assessments and to pay half of the amount (approximately \$2430.00) contracted by Plymouth Conservation Commission with the Bangor, ME Assessor.

Ms. Sargent seconded the motion.

All members present voted in the affirmative.

Motion passed.

2. **Trail work**-We need to schedule a work party to work on the trails on the Howe Town Forest, particularly to cut the weeds on the northern extension of the perimeter trail. Bill was not in attendance to update commission on this item, Mr. Spencer stated that the north side of the grassy area needs to be weed wacked and that he would send an email to the Squam Lake Association to request assistance
3. **Irving Fuel Station** – Mr. Spencer spoke to the board about the proposed project to change the delivery system from the tanks to the pumps at the Irving gas station on Holderness Road. He was told by station representatives that they wanted to have the fuel station open 24 hours a day and this project would improve the safety of the delivery system. He also stated he had a set of plans for the project and was meeting again with station reps. On May 11, 2022 at 10am to go over the project details. Mr. Capone asked the chairman for the representatives contact information and stated that should the project entail a major modification to the facility it would need site plan review approval from the Planning Board.

UP-COMING MEETINGS: Next regular Commission Meeting, Tuesday, June 14th 2022

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Lucinda M. Hannus
Land Use Assistant