

TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes June 8, 2021

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

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Members Present:

Larry Spencer, Chairman
Shelagh Connelly

Anne Packard, Vice Chair
April Sargent

Bill Nesheim
Woodie Laverack, Ex-Officio

Ben Amsden

Members Not Present:

Others Present:

Nancy Isikoff

Cici Cyr

Dan Falby

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of May 11, 2021 were approved as presented.

MAIL CHECK: The following items were reviewed in the mail folder:

1. Application for Air Permit – Holderness School
2. Shoreland Permit: 245-080-000 issued #2021-01137
3. Granite State Farmer
4. Timber Crier
5. Supply Lines
6. Shoreland Permit Application: 232-006-000 move existing house away from waterfront.

OLD ITEMS:

Survey of the Howe Town Forest:

The responses from the RFP included a bid for \$13, 000.00 and \$6450.00.

The warrant article passed at the 2020 Town meeting stated the following:

***Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to survey the Howe Town Forest and to further authorize the withdrawal of the sum indicated from the Town Forest Fund. No additional funds will be raised by taxation.*

It was determined that B. Nesheim will attend the Board of Selectmen meeting on June 21, 2021 to discuss options regarding moving forward with the plan to do the survey.

Knotweed at Transfer Station:

April Sargent stated she met with Douglas Cygan, Invasive Species Coordinator/Entomologist II at the NH Department of Agriculture at the Transfer Station on June 2, 2021.

A. Sargent stated after inspecting the site, D. Cygan agreed that the areas around the perimeter of the Transfer Station with Knotweed were too steep to attempt to smother the plants.

A. Sargent stated the island between the dumpsters would serve as a good location to demonstrate how to get rid of Knotweed.

A tentative date of July 17, 2021 was selected to do the work at the Transfer Station.

It was agreed that the Commission will coordinate with S. Davis at the Transfer station to begin the process of smothering of the Knotweed.

The Commission agreed not to use herbicides to get rid of the Knotweed.

Status of project at the Holderness School:

It was noted that both the Nordic Ski Trail improvement project and the Turf Field/Lighting projects were approved by the Planning Board and are moving forward.

G. Howard Subdivision Application:

It was confirmed a quorum of the Commission will be present at the Site Visit on June 14, 2021 at 2:00pm. It was determined that the Commission will submit comments regarding the G. Howard subdivision prior to the Planning Board meeting on June 15, 2021.

N. Isikoff urged the Commission members to review the Gove Environmental Report regarding the G. Howard subdivision.

S. Connelly noted that the Conservation has no authority/jurisdiction over the G. Howard Subdivision application currently being considered by the Planning Board but can submit comments regarding it.

NEW ITEMS:

1. Signed permits from May: No new permits
2. Legislative items before the NH House and Senate: The emergency order authorizing virtual public meetings has not been continued.
3. Schedule for July and August: The Commission members agreed that there will not be a meeting in July or August, and that the next regular meeting will be in-person at the Town Hall on September 14, 2021.
4. Question regarding in-person meetings: The Conservation Commission members agreed to begin meeting in-person at the Town Hall again starting with the September 14, 2021 meeting.
5. Election of officers:
6. **MOTION: "To elect L. Spencer as Chairman and Anne Packard as Vice Chair."**
Motion: S. Connelly
Second: B. Nesheim
Motion Passes: 7 – YES 0 - No

UP-COMING MEETINGS:

1. Next Meeting will be in-person at the Town Hall on September 14, 2021.
2. Short courses from NHANRS
3. September 11—50th Anniversary celebration of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions—Tentatively to be held at Bear Brook State Park.
4. Friends of the Pemi-Livermore Chapter is meeting at noon on site on June 18th on the west side of the gorge. It is anticipated that representatives from the state will share future plans for the site.

N. Isikoff stated the New Hampshire Electric Co-op is planning to spray herbicide on their easement areas on properties located in Holderness.

N. Isikoff stated she feels more time is needed to educate property owners that they can opt out of allowing the herbicide to be sprayed on their property.

N. Isikoff asked the Conservation Commission to send a letter to the Co-Op asking for a delay in the scheduled application.

Cici Cyr noted the herbicide being used is dangerous to the watershed area.

L. Spencer stated the monthly Conservation Matters column could be used to educate property owners.

B. Nesheim suggested the Co-op could include something in the electric bills of the property owners involved.

L. Spencer stated he will draft a letter and send it out to the members for review/comment prior to sending it to the NHEC.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Decoteau, Land Use Boards Assistant