

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES, September 13, 2022**

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

Roll Call:

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

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

Also Present: Lucinda Hannus, Town Land Use Assistant, Tink Taylor former CC member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 14, 2022 – *The minutes were approved as written*

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

Holderness School Wetlands Amended Application
NH Tree Farm Program
NH Timber Harvest Council
Timber Crier Magazine

OLD ITEMS:

1. E115 Pole Replacement Project – Larry Spencer updated the members summarizing the progress he has observed at different locations around town. Noted that Eversource is also doing work at the sub-station. B. Nesheim stated that he thought they were installing a new larger capacitor and that he had noise concerns, also that at the Planning Board presentation GZA and Eversource discussed a revised route in some of the steep slope areas and had updated the board on these changes to the plans. A. Packard commented that the trucks working at the different sites have been parked in roadways causing some concerns.
2. Monitoring – L. Spencer updated the members about the three monitoring reports they had just received from the Land Conservation Investment Program for the Pilote, Morrell and Crawford properties. B. Nesheim discussed the posting of private property signs on the abutting property and their legality to enforce no trespassing as currently posted and as mentioned in the field report for the Pilote Forest land. L. Spencer reminded the board that all the conservation properties needed an annual monitoring report. A. Packard stated she will do the town forest and B. Nesheim stated he would complete the Sargent Smith property report. Ben and Shelagh will do two others. L. Spencer stated that once all are completed, they will be submitted to the Select Board.

3. Knot Weed - L. Spencer commented that a good job was done on the Knot Weed at the town transfer station, but unfortunately, he observed other outbreaks of this invasive plant in the general area and will likely require another work day in the spring to try to eradicate. A. Packard noted that she observed an outbreak in front of Town Hall right alongside the stairs. L. Spencer commented that he has also observed several areas along Rt. 175 and that he had received a note from the Town Administrator that Ted Vansant may have ideas on how to eradicate effectively. The chairman will contact him and get back to the board. The chairman also stated that he thought application of Formaldehyde to the stems may be effective.
4. LWCF Grant – L. Spencer updated the members as to the status of the grant application for the Oxbow property. Seems politics in Washington delayed the review by the National Parks Dept. along with some mis-communications with the state's assessment process but believes it is now moving forward. However more disturbing is the fact that the Plymouth Athletic Club (Oxbow water area) withdrew from the MOU with the town and sold their property for \$75,000 recently to a local construction company, Fowl Corp. or Crimson Construction. No one has contacted the Commission or the town as to their intent for use of this "property". We should be receiving the notice of award of the grant in the beginning of October and then would have one year to obtain easements.
5. Holderness School Projects – L. Spencer advised the board that he had emailed photos he had taken of the athletic field and snow making pond and felt that they had done a great job on the project. S. Connelly stated that she had walked some of the new trails and they were beautiful.
6. PFAS Sampling Pilote Forest – L. Spencer indicated to the board that NH DES had chosen several random locations to conduct this investigation, the town forest was one of those because of its easy access and that it was conservation land. S. Connelly had looked at the data and stated that's PFAS are everywhere but these are on the much lower values than in other places. L. Spencer stated he was struck by the PH levels. B. Nesheim commented that they were typical for this area due to acidic and lack of calcium in soil makeup along conifers and oaks being prevalent forest species.

New Items

1. Trails – B. Nesheim stated he would be in touch with the SLA (Squam Lake Assoc.) folks to discuss trail maintenance projects.
2. Next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for October. 11, 2022
3. NHACC – NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions has a revamped website and members should check it out. L. Spencer is now the President of that association.
4. The members discussed adding additional benches along the walkway on Rt. 3. Who could the town get to install them, how could they be funded. S. Connelly mentioned memorial benches has worked in other areas, but was not sure if the CC was the right organization to champion this effort. B. Nesheim stated that the locations of any new benches will need to be chosen carefully observing the ROW variations, abutters concerns and views. T. Taylor commented that there is only one piece missing to connecting the existing sidewalk to Holderness Harbor and that he was worried to see someone having to step into the roadway to navigate this section.

5. Labor Day at Livermore Falls – L. Spencer indicated that the majority of the people there seemed to be from Massachusetts based on license plates along with college kids.
6. S. Connelly discussed the impacts that stormwater runoff and sedimentation are having on the waters of Little Squam in the area of Loon Hollow Cottages. Appears that fill is washing off into the upstream brook and making its way to the cove creating a significant delta at the confluence with the lake. Questioned what could be done to correct or address this problem knowing along with sediments, nutrients and other stormwater pollutants are entering the lake untreated. B. Nesheim stated that he would speak with Roger at SLA and questioned whether there was dredging/excavation and filling going on without a permit? L. Spencer mentioned that maybe the Compliance Officer could investigate.
7. T. Taylor from the audience mentioned to the members that he had observed the stone wall at Cotton Cove Cabins had collapsed and was falling into Squam Lake. NH DOT was scheduled to start a repaving project on Rt 113 tomorrow. B. Nesheim suggested a letter be sent to NH DOT from the Lakes Region Planning Council and the Conservation Commission requesting that they address and repair.
8. L. Spencer mentioned to the members that no progress has been made with the Friends of the Pemi as to the parking lot on the Plymouth/Campton side of the river.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Lucinda M. Hannus
Land Use Assistant