

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS**  
**Conservation Commission**  
Meeting Minutes October 13, 2020

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

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Members Present:

Larry Spencer, Chairman	Bill Nesheim	Ben Amsden
Anne Packard, Vice Chair	April Sargent	Woodie Laverack, Ex-Officio

Members Not Present:

Shelagh Connelly      Brian Gagnon

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**      September 8, 2020

**MOTION: “To approve the minutes of September 8, 2020 as presented.”**

Motion: B. Amsden

Second: L. Spencer

Discussion: None

Motion Passes: 6-yes   0-no   0-abstention   1-absent

**MAIL CHECK:**

L. Spencer briefly reviewed the following items:

1. NHTOA 2021 Annual Fund
2. Supply Lines Summer Newsletter
3. Granite State Tree Farmer Newsletter Summer 2020

**OLD ITEMS:**

Change in the wetland’s legends on the town assessment website:

L. Spencer stated he spoke with B. Snelling, Planning Board Chairman, and asked him to getting the two separate layers of wetlands to be included on one tab on the Town Tax Maps on the website.

Survey of the Howe Town Forest:

L. Spencer stated he got the name of another Surveyor and will send out an RFP next month.

L. Spencer stated one of the main reasons for the survey of the Town Forest done is to subdivide the Holderness Department of Public Works parcel from the Town Forest.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant:

L. Spencer reviewed a map of the Oxbow area with the Mountain bike trails, hiking trails, snow mobile and three potential new trails designated.

L. Spencer noted there is a need for parking, and that Irving Oil is not open to selling any part of their 19.66ac parcel. L. Spencer stated he will contact the owner of one of the smaller parcels to see if they would be interested in selling some acreage for parking.

L. Spencer stated Lakes Region Gulf owns 4 parcels and that he is talking to the owner regarding purchasing some/all of properties at a price point that would work within the bounds of the Grant.

L. Spencer reviewed possible parking areas in the northern area of the project area and in the southern area of the project area off North Ashland Road.

L. Spencer stated the deadline for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Project Application is October 30<sup>th</sup> and suggested having a Zoom meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup> to vote on it.  
L. Spencer stated he will get the budget out to the Commission members as soon as he has the numbers.  
L. Spencer stated that there are trails that should be designated for specific uses.  
L. Spencer stated there is a possibility that the presence of wood turtles on the open field area that may need to be addressed.  
A. Packard stated her concern that the Conservation Commission is taking on more property to monitor/maintain while they are barely keeping up with the maintenance of existing properties.  
L. Spencer suggested a Memo of Understanding with the other participating organizations may be the way to address maintenance issues.  
B. Amsden asked if 3 days would be long enough for the Commission members to review the material on the 27<sup>th</sup> and vote prior to the deadline on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
L. Spencer indicated he would be sending out information in advance of the Zoom meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Monitoring Reports:

B. Amsden indicated he and S. Connelly have not been able to do the monitoring but are planning to soon.  
L. Spencer stated he did the Pemi Riverside Park monitoring and will turn in the report.

Japanese Knotweed project:

L. Spencer reviewed a map with areas of Knotweed showing on NH Rt 175.  
L. Spencer encouraged the members to provide the location of Knotweed bushes they are aware of so the map can be updated.  
L. Spencer suggested the Holderness DPW may be able to address the Knotweed on Town roads/property.  
A. Sargent stated she would send out an email with the State guidelines on how to deal with Knotweed.

Young Property Line Adjustment: (Planning Board 15 September 2020)

L. Spencer stated that one of the parcels in the proposed subdivision has wetlands on it and concern was expressed regarding development within wetland areas.  
B. Nesheim stated the application was continued to the September 20, 2020 meeting.

Trail maintenance on Howe and Pilote Forests:

L. Spencer stated he will order new trail signs.

**NEW ITEMS:**

Signed permits:

L. Spencer reviewed a spreadsheet with the Wetlands Permit applications that have been submitted/approved this year.

Intent to cut on Pemi Fish and Game Property:

L. Spencer called A. Packard regarding the Intent to Cut.  
A. Packard indicated that she can't get much information on the cut but the owners have been notified that wetlands are present on the property.

FY21/22 Request:

The commission members agreed to increase the 4612-390 Training from \$50.00 to \$200.00 and will vote on it during the November meeting.

Other items as needed:

B. Nesheim stated he did some research on rules relative to mountain biking as requested.

B. Nesheim stated the NH Fish & Game classifies bikes with below 35 watts as a regular bike and over 35 watts as a motor vehicle and that the State has some issues where the larger bikes are being operated where motor vehicles are prohibited.

**UP-COMING MEETINGS:**

NHACC Annual Meeting:—Virtual Meeting

L. Spencer stated he has emailed the details of what sessions will be available and that the Town will reimburse the cost to register.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Decoteau, Land Use Boards Assistant