

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

4:00 P.M.

Minutes

Members Present:

Larry Spencer, Chair
Bill Nesheim

Anne Packard

Woodie Laverack, Ex Officio

Ben Amsden

Shelagh Connelly

Members Not Present: Brian Gagnon, April Sargent

Guests: Tyson Morrill,

Staff Present: Michael Capone, Town Administrator
Nancy Decoteau, Land Use Boards Assistant

Call to Order: L. Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Commission approved the minutes of May 12, 2020 as distributed.

MAIL CHECK: N. Decoteau scanned the mail below and sent it to the Commissioners via email:

1. NHTOA letter dated May 28, 2020
2. NHTOA Annual Meeting
3. NHTOA 2019 Annual Report Magazine
4. National Woodlands Magazine Spring 2020

OLD ITEMS:

1. Bench on Howe Town Forest Property
B. Amsden stated the bench is in place.
2. FB Environmental Science Pubs
Science Pubs are now virtual events. First one June 9, 2020. Sign up via Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
3. Change in the wetland's legends on the town assessment website
L. Spencer will follow up on this item.
4. Survey of the Howe Town Forest
L. Spencer stated funding becomes available after July 1, 2020 and he will have an RFP ready sometime after July 1, 2020.

NEW ITEMS:

1. Tyson Morrill on his work at SLA and with reference to recent presentation by Amanda May.
 - a. Working on a complete assessment of all 59 water crossings in the Squam Lakes watershed area.

- b. The work is in line with the Squam Lakes Contaminants Group, Watershed Management Plan and the Army Corp of Engineers.
 - c. NH Fish & Game will assist in sampling streams to identify fish present. 4 of 27 are completed – goal is to complete the remaining 23.
 - d. Knowing how crossings react to high flows and having data on how species of fish are effected increases the potential of obtaining State funding to replace/repair undersized crossings.
 - e. State of NH / Stream Crossing Initiative website maps stream crossings. DES/DOT rank the vulnerability of crossings and can send out a prioritized list to towns showing which crossings are most vulnerable.
 - f. Water quality sampling is ongoing. Volunteers are available to test approximately half of the sites. Working on training new volunteers and providing testing equipment for each site to use.
 - g. Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species: No dive instructor is available for scuba training so the 3 certified members of the SLA will do the work. Working on training volunteers for the removal of terrestrial invasive species. Starting with Cotton Mt. Trail to remove Cottonweed.
 - h. Sediments: Work focused on identifying/controlling source of contamination in tributaries. Grant application is in process to support a 5-year plan on how to stop the sediments from entering the tributaries.
2. Discussion with M. Capone/W. Lavarack regarding the Howe Town Forest and Selectboard concerns with respect to DPW needs for the future.
- M. Capone stated the Board of Selectmen asks that consideration be given to the possibility of the Holderness Public Works department needing more than the 5 acres currently available. A survey would need to be updated in the future to designate additional area for the Holderness Public Works.
- L. Spencer stated that a survey is necessary to move forward with obtaining a Conservation Easement or Declaration of Public Trust for the Town Forest, either of which being a way to fully protect the property from the Town taking back a portion or all of the Town Forest at anytime in the future.
- M. Capone stated he would take the highlights of the discussion back to the Board of Selectmen to see if they have any further comment.
3. Possible Grant for development of non-motorized trails and land purchases in the Oxbow area.
- L. Spencer stated the White Mountain Trail Cooperative informed him grant funding is available to acquire property/develop trails in the Oxbow area. Grant has a 50/50 match. Grant would go into effect 2022.
4. Monitoring Reports
- L. Spencer reminded members to complete the monitoring reports.
- A. Packard has completed the monitoring report for the Pilote Property and plans to do the Howe Forest next week.
5. Spring and Summer Schedule
- The Commission determined to not meet during the months of July and August.

6. Other Items

L. Spencer requested that the Conservation Commission members be emailed a copy of the final draft of updated Natural Resources Chapter of the Holderness Master Plan.

UP-COMING MEETINGS:

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Decoteau
Land Use Boards Assistant