

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Tuesday, 12 May 2020

4:00 P.M.

Minutes

Members Present:

Larry Spencer, Chair; Anne Packard, Ben Amsden, Woodie Laverack, Ex Officio

Members Not Present: Brian Gagnon, Shelagh Connelly

Guests: Bill Nesheim, April Sargent, Nancy Decoteau

Staff Present: Linda Levy, Land Use Boards Assistant

Call to Order: L. Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Commission approved the minutes of 11 February 2020 as distributed.

MAIL CHECK: I. Levy scanned the mail below and sent to the Commissioners via email

1. Grafton County Conservation District Annual Report 2019
2. Granite State Tree Farmer Spring 2020 Newsletter

OLD ITEMS:

1. Bench on Howe Town Forest Property
 - a. B. Amsden will get the bench chore done
 - b. There are trees down on the Pilote Forest. B. Amsden will contact the SLA to find out when the Americorps volunteers will be able to do trail maintenance
2. Possibility of FB Environmental doing a Science Pub in November
 - a. These events are on hold because of COVID-19
3. Change in the wetland's legends on the town assessment website
 - a. L. Spencer sent the request to M. Capone; due to COVID-19, the project is on hold; L. Spencer will follow up with M. Capone
4. Survey of the Howe Town Forest
 - a. L. Spencer will have the RFPs at the June meeting

NEW ITEMS:

1. Discussion with Tyson Morrill on his work at SLA and with reference to recent presentation by Amanda May.
 - a. T. Morrill was not able to be at the meeting; L. Spencer shared the findings; DDT was found in Bennett Cove. Further suggestions included asking T. Morrill to check on the dredged area in Bennett Brook, Coolidge Farm where waste oil was used, and the Co-op where transformers were used.

2. Introduction of possible new member, April Sargent
 - a. A. Sargent is studying Environmental Biology at PSU and is interested in serving on the Commission because conservation aligns with her personal and work goals. She wants to be an ad hoc volunteer while in school. L. Spencer suggested that she be an alternate.
3. Monitoring Reports
 - a. Reports should be done soon while the state is still doing social gathering as there are fewer people on the trails
4. Spring and Summer Schedule
 - a. L. Spencer suggested that the Commission meet in June; he will take care of all business over the summer
5. Other items as needed
 - a. L. Spencer will work with E. King to complete the paperwork to have B. Nesheim and A. Sargent approved to serve on the Commission
 - b. L. Spencer shared a power point of an Ox Bow hike that he did in March. Slides included photos of various flowers and the washed-out road. He shared that the "Secret Beach" area is clean but the area behind the beach has lots of litter. He asked for volunteers who would be willing to help clean the area on an upcoming Saturday; he will contact those who volunteered. There are also a few blown down trees that he will cut up.
 - c. The elm tree that was taken down at the Holderness Central School needs to be replaced. L. Spencer suggested that money from the CC budget be used to purchase a new Princeton Elm (\$1000). He will purchase the tree to coincide with other purchases for plantings in Plymouth.

UP-COMING MEETINGS:

1. L. Spencer went to the Watershed meeting
2. The state Conservation Commission meeting will be held on the 1st Saturday in November in Plymouth

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Levy
Land Use Boards Assistant