

TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes December 8, 2020

L. Spencer called the meeting held via Zoom to order at 4:04PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Members Present:

Larry Spencer, Chairman

Anne Packard, Vice Chair

Bill Nesheim

Ben Amsden

April Sargent

Shelagh Connelly

Woodie Laverack, Ex-Officio

Members Not Present:

Brian Gagnon

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of November 10, 2020 were approved as presented.

MAIL CHECK: None

OLD ITEMS:

Survey of the Howe Town Forest:

L. Spencer stated that the Board of Selectmen can review the RFP for the Survey of the Howe Town Forest at their December 21, 2020 meeting and provide comments/concerns to the Conservation Commission prior to sending it out.

L. Spencer stated that the date proposals are due should be changed to February 1, 2021.

Japanese Knotweed Project:

L. Spencer thanked April for the research and documents she provided on the project.

W. Laverack reported that the Board of Selectmen did not talk about how to remove Japanese Knotweed from the Transfer Station.

L. Spencer stated it looks like Springtime, after the first of the growth of the plants, is the best time to work on eliminating it.

L. Spencer suggested keeping the Commission's efforts directed to the plants at the Transfer Station as a sort of test project area in the Spring.

B. Amsden noted that the patch of Japanese Knotweed on Owl Brook Road is located on his property and he is willing for that area to be used as a practice site as well.

A. Sargent stated she can follow up with NH-DOT regarding treating the Japanese Knotweed along State roads.

Trail Maintenance on Howe and Pilote properties:

B. Nesheim stated the SLA has done trail maintenance on the Pilote and Howe forests in February 2020 and were there doing work today.

B. Nesheim stated signs need to be fixed and noted some large trees still need to be removed.

NEW ITEMS:

Signed permits –November:

L. Spencer stated he signed a permit to replace an existing wall that needed repair.

Conservation Matters Column:

L. Spencer asked A. Packard to send out the draft column for review/comment to the Commission members and to SLA.

Budget for 2021:

It was noted that the Conservation Commission does not need to present their budget request to the Budget Committee but that Town Administrator, M. Capone, will present it on behalf of the Commission.

NHTOA signs:

L. Spencer stated he has two Tree Farm signs to be put up and left them on the property but they still need to be put up.

L. Spencer noted it will have to wait until Spring.

L. Spencer noted that two boards still need to be trimmed on the picnic table that was repaired as he thought the tables were 8ft. long but they are 6ft. long.

L. Spencer stated he will be adding a roof on the kiosk.

L. Spencer stated he will work on a kiosk sign for the Smith-Sargent property over the winter.

L. Spencer asked about making a small pull-off parking area by the Smith-Sargent property.

S. Connelly stated she will follow-up with Kevin on that project.

January meeting:

It was determined that there is no need for a meeting in January.

Winter use of properties:

L. Spencer stated he expects that with Covid-19 there will be an increased use of the trail system on the properties and suggested writing an article to encourage use of the trails.

S. Connelly stated there is a need to have trail maps and good signage along the trail.

S. Connelly stated the emergency services in the area need to have accurate information on the trails if/when a rescue call comes in the rescue team will know the best way to reach the person in need of assistance.

Bill Nesheim stated he will follow-up on this project.

L. Spencer suggested he would meet in early January with the Fire Chief, Police Chief and B. Nesheim in January to find a solution to this issue.

L. Spencer stated he has sent out a draft new trail map for review/comment prior to printing.

Other items as needed:

L. Spencer noted the Conservation Commission Report for the Annual Report needs to be done.

L. Spencer stated he will send out a draft for review/comment prior to submitting it.

L. Spencer asked if the Board of Selectmen had a plan for how Town Meeting would be conducted as he is concerned about how to communicate effectively to the town that the Commission is seeking approval on the grant for the Oxbow project.

W. Laverack stated that no definite plan is in place for the Annual Town Meeting.

S. Connelly asked that the Japanese Knotweed Project and the Conservation Matters column be mentioned in the 2020 Conservation Commission report.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Decoteau, Land Use Boards Assistant