

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES, September 12, 2023**

Larry Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:00

Commissioners Present: Larry Spencer, April Sargent, Shelagh Connelly

Not Present: Anne Packard, Woodie Laverack, Bill Nesheim, and Ben Amsden

Also Present: Lucinda Hannus, Land Use Administrator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 13, 2023

**“Motion to approve the minutes as submitted “– S. Connelly
Second – A. Sargent**

Approved: 3- Yes, 0- No

NEW ITEMS:

1. PSNH – Eversource discussion of their transmission line structures work in the Pemi River Overlay District and Flood Hazard Zone. Anthony Mahoney of VHB, agent for Eversource and PSNH stated that the project involves temporary disturbances in Holderness to replace a single wooden pole with a new metal structure approximately 10 ft away from the existing pole. Showed the board a map of the area, that there are zero wetlands impacts, any timber structures needed for construction will be removed upon completion and the area will be returned to pre-construction conditions.

L. Spencer indicated that there are two areas of Japanese Knotweed in the area.

A. Mahoney stated that the contractor is required to inspect their equipment and there are BMPs in place to ensure that soils and invasive vegetation is not transported off site by the track vehicles they are planning to use.

The board will report to the ZBA that they have no major concerns with the project as proposed.

2. Cole Beale – Squam Lake Association (SLA), Director of Conservation. Mr. Beale introduced himself and spoke to the members about his educational and professional background. He has been the Director of Conservation for approximately one (1) year. The SLA has produced a watershed management plan which provides a strategy for protecting water quality into the future with the goal of completing restoration projects and Best Management

Practices (BMPs) throughout the watershed to improve water quality using USEPA 319 Clean Water Fund grant monies. The watershed plan identified 53 “hot spots” of direct nutrient loading sources. SLA completed three (3) projects this past summer to control erosion, restore native plants and invasive species removal. A high priority site identified in Holderness is the Ice House Creamery parking lot. Sediments from this unpaved surface are directly discharged to the lake via three straight drainage pipes under US 3. Mr. Beale presented a design plan for creating sediment filter bays on the property to remove sediments in stormwater before they are discharged to the lake that is acceptable to the property owner. They will be applying to USEPA for grant monies to complete the drainage project and requested a letter of support from the commission. Mr. Beale submitted a letter he drafted and L. Spencer signed it on behalf of the members.

S. Connelly mentioned the ongoing problem with sediments in the Evans Cove area. C. Beale acknowledged this and indicated that it has been identified as a hotspot.

L. Spencer indicated the town library parking lot is also an area that could benefit from BMPs but difficult to address due to small area to work in, frequency of usage and multiple owners. Also commented about leaky septic systems around the lake.

C. Beale indicated they are currently concentrating on stormwater; however, indications are that the bottom is changing and becoming covered with a filamentous alga that is fed by nutrients not typically found in stormwater. Mr. Beale went on to explain that the nature of Squam Lake being an impounded water body with a constant water level has also raised the water table and increased ground water exchange which could contribute nutrients from septic systems. They have started a new project to better understand where and what growth is occurring. Approximately 100 people signed up to locate tiles (growth pads) around the lake for monitoring.

C. Beale continued by indicating they have had several calls with regards to Perkins Lane, a dirt road adjacent to the lake that has constant standing water that eventually adds sediments to the lake. Residents want to see a resolution to this problem.

S. Connelly suggested that SLA speak with Kevin Coburn, the town’s road agent.

L. Spencer thanked Mr. Beale for his presentation and continuing good work.

MAIL CHECK: Mr. Spencer reviewed the mail

OLD ITEMS:

1. Trails – Weed whacking of the trails has been completed to some extent but not as far as the logging road.

2. L. Spencer reminded members to monitor and report on their assigned town properties.
3. LCHIP grant application. L. Spencer advised the members that the property owner is working on a Purchase and Sales agreement which needs to be included in the grant application. Needs a clause that if the town does not get the grant there is no obligation to purchase the property.
4. L. Spencer advised the members that they are still trying to reach out to the family of Anne Russell regarding the Town Farm property, they had sent a letter but have not received a response.
5. B. Nesheim was not in attendance to speak to fertilizer usage.
6. L. Spencer indicated that he is seeing lots more Knotweed at Lower Beede Road, the Irving station and along Route 175. A. Sargent stated that there is no alternative management practice suggested for eradication.
7. L. Spencer mentioned that he has a donation lined up for a bench that could be placed at the end of the walking path at Rt. 175 on town property.

Next Meeting is October 10, 2023

ADJOURNMENT: With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Lucinda M. Hannus
Land Use Administrator