

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES, February 13 2024**

Larry Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:00

Commissioners Present: Larry Spencer, Bill Nesheim, Woodie Laverack, Anne Packard, April Sargent, Shelagh Connelly, Ben Amsden

Also Present: Lucinda Hannus, Land Use Administrator, M. Capone, Town Administrator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 9, 2023

**"Motion to approve the minutes as presented" – L. Spencer
Second – B. Nesheim**

Approved: 7 - Yes, 0 - No

MAIL CHECK: L. Spencer presented the mail received from NHDES and the Grafton County Conservation District

OLD ITEMS:

1. Trails on Property – B. Nesheim to continue efforts to get new signs made.
2. Potential PRLAC membership from Holderness – L. Spencer spoke to the members about having an active membership at the PRLAC meetings. C. Lehner is the town's representative currently and may be considering stepping down. Mr. Spencer asked Mr. Laverick to inquire of the select board to consider a new appointment if that is the case. It was suggested that a blurb could go in the newspaper requesting volunteers.

NEW ITEMS:

1. Meeting with Roger LaRochelle – L. Spencer spoke to the board that they are diligently working on the title research items with SLCS. Two contracts for the boundary survey and the environmental assessment have been signed by the town and awarded to the contractors. Mr. Spencer indicated that he has begun working on the natural history survey with members at PSU. He also indicated that he filed a progress report at the end of January with LCHIP as required.
2. Pending Legislation – L. Spencer reviewed the status of a variety of pending state legislation that NHACC has either put forward support or opposition to. Most pending bills are either still in committee, been sent on to the Senate or have yet to be heard. The association is in opposition to bill #1479 limiting spending of public funds for lobbying.
3. Expansion of DPW area on Howe Town Forest. – L. Spencer explained that there is warrant on this year's ballot to add 2 acres to the existing DPW land from the existing town forest property further explaining that he was not comfortable with the lack of

plans of what and where this acreage was coming from and how it was planned to be used. M. Capone, Town Administrator spoke to the board explaining that the road agent needed more operating space for moving equipment and storage of materials and is looking at the southerly end of the existing property. Any action taken on the Town Forest land would need legislative approval by towns people and if the CC is opposed than they should vote against the warrant. S. Connelly felt that there was conflict between the towns DPW needs and the commissions responsibility to protect this valuable open space property, and any encroachment should be addressed by the CC. L. Spencer indicated that he thought there was existing room within the property if the hillside was dug out forgoing the need to added acreage. M. Capone indicated that he could set up a meeting with the members and the road agent for a site visit to explain the plans. B. Nesheim stated he thought that would be very helpful to get a sense of where there are wetlands, steep slopes requiring ATPs or other areas of concern. It was decided that they would go as the CC rather than individually and asked if it could be scheduled for next Tuesday, February 20 at 4:00 pm at the site. M. Capone stated he would check with the road agent and get back to the board, it would be noticed as a public meeting. S. Connelly asked if as a whole was this location for the DPW garage the right place, are there other properties that are better suited. W. Laverick felt this was the most practical location. B. Nesheim stated that he thought there was going to be a need for a lot of regrading to make a level spot and was worried about runoff impacts.

4. Ashland Trash/Energy Project – Since Ashland’s change to their warrant article reducing the money to support this project to a \$1.00 it appears the project is squashed at least for this year. B. Nesheim stated he felt that the town was still in support and would pursue going forward.
5. NHACC lunch and learn sessions – L. Spencer suggested that the members check out the bunch of good sessions to be held by the organization via their website.
6. Conservation Matters – L. Spencer indicated he would write up an article about the Oxbow LCHIP project for next April’s publication and would prepare a map of the project for presentation and display at town meeting. He also mentioned that NHACC has a volunteer position open in their Aquatic Mitigation program for someone to help with awarding CWA 319 grant funds and asked if any members were interested. The application is on their website.

L. Spencer reminded members of the Saving Special Places event by the Cooperative Extension happening on April 6th, and that the members should check out the great new exhibits at the White Mountains Museum showing local artist’s work.

A. Packard inquired about placing current use land into a conservation easement, if this was possible. L. Spencer stated that it was, that the easement had to be held by someone other than the property owner and consideration should be made as to funding maintenance and monitoring cost.

B. Nesheim spoke to a letter he received from the program manager Pat Livingston at Holderness School regarding the availability of approximately 60 students to do outreach work projects between March 4 and 13th. Suggestions for projects were pulling bittersweet on town property, trash pick-ups, a research project about the Ashland Trash to Energy proposal, and

that the timing was not conducive to doing trail work during mud season. B. Nesheim suggested that a tour of the Oxbow property and having the students prepare posters or a slide show for town meeting. He will contact Ms. Livingston with the suggested project. S. Connelly thought another group of students could focus on the town's conservation lands for a story board presentation for residents, that kids getting involved with conservation and how lands are used would be a great educational project.

Next Meeting is March 12, 2024 at the Public Safety Building due to town meeting voting at town hall that date.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Lucinda M. Hannus
Land Use Administrator