

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting Minutes February 13, 2018**

**Members Present:** Larry Spencer, Anne Packard, Jenny Evans and Ben Amsden

**Members not present:** Janet Cocchiaro, Brian Gagnon, Jacquelyn Jewell and Shelagh Connelly

**Staff Present:** N. Decoteau, Land Use Admin Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER:**

L. Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:05PM. A quorum was present.

L. Spencer noted that J. Cocchiaro has decided not to seek another term on the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of December 19, 2017 were approved as presented.

**MAIL CHECK:**

L. Spencer reviewed the following items in the mail folder:

- Intent to Cut: 206-007-000 Nathan Morello 10.25-acre parcel
- NHTOA: membership fee paid for 2018, Upcoming Classes
- The Legacy: Lakes Region Conservation Trust Winter 2017-18 Newsletter

**OLD ITEMS:**

- Status of Northern Pass

L. Spencer stated that the committee voted against the Northern Pass project 7 – 0 and that a request for rehearing can't be made until the formal decision is issued – which is expected in March.

- Status of trail work on the Pilote Forest.

L. Spencer stated the trail work will be completed in the spring once the snow is melted.

- Monitoring reports

L. Spencer encouraged the members to complete the monitoring reports.

- Update on the status of the warrant articles.

L. Spencer stated that instead of placing the four articles proposed by the Conservation Commission on the annual warrant the Board of Selectmen has determined to place the following two articles on the annual warrant:

**Article 10:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars (\$13,632) to be placed in the Conservation Commission Capital Reserve Fund to be offset from the unassigned fund balance with no amount to be raised by general taxation. The funding amount reflects the proceeds received by the Town for recent forestry work done on the Pilote property.*

**Recommended by the Select Board; (5 yeas, 0 nays) and Budget Committee; (5 yeas, 0 nays)**

**Article 11:** *To see if the Town will vote to designate the property, now called the Town Forest, the Sydney Howe Forest in honor of the now deceased resident of Holderness who was one of the foremost environmentalists of the United States. This property will continue to be managed as a town forest.*

L. Spencer stated it is his understanding that the Commission will be able to access the funds placed into the Conservation Commission Capital Reserve Fund without a vote at an annual meeting.

L. Spencer stated use of funds from the Conservation Commission Capital Reserve Fund will not be limited to items related to the Town Forest.

#### **NEW ITEMS:**

- L. Spencer presented the DRAFT language for a section of the Natural Resources Chapter of the Master Plan which the sub-committee had forwarded for comment/input from the Commission.

The Commission members agreed to forward their comments/changes directly to J. Cocchiaro for her to take to the sub-committee.

- Discussion of the report from the fall PSU graduate class (this was sent to you a few weeks ago)

L. Spencer reviewed the power point presentation made by a group of PSU students.

- The Commission members agreed to schedule a Winter Property Exploration day on March 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to Noon.
- The Commission agreed not to schedule a meeting for the month of June unless it becomes necessary.
- It was noted that Land Use Admin Assistant, N. Decoteau, will no longer be working in that position as of Feb 15, 2018.

#### **UP-COMING MEETINGS:**

L. Spencer made the Commission members aware of the following events:

- Saving Special Places—April 7<sup>th</sup>, Prospect Mtn. High school, Alton, NH
- NE Natural History Conference—April 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, Burlington, Vermont.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

L. Spencer adjourned the meeting at 4:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Decoteau, Land Use Admin Assistant