

Conservation Commission Minutes 04/10/18

TOWN OF HOLDERNESS CONSERVATION COMMISSION Regular Meeting Minutes April 10, 2018

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

Members not present: Brian Gagnon, Jacquelyn Jewell

Staff Present: Michael Capone, Town Administrator

CALL TO ORDER:

L. Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:00PM. A quorum was present.

Larry deferred the other agenda items to allow our guest, Rebecca Hanson, time to discuss the SLA invasive species workshops and the progress plan for dealing with Toxics in the Lake. Rebecca discussed plans to hold invasive species removal workshops at six sites around the Watershed including one at the SLA and one at the West Rattlesnake trail on May 19th.

Rebecca also mentioned that PSU had received grant funding to further explore some of the areas of contamination found around the Lake including Bennett Brook Cove. There have been contaminants found in loon eggs and sediment in that area. Core sampling will be done and other areas may be studied.

Larry asked about the Watershed Plan update. Rebecca noted that it may be done in 2019.

MAIL CHECK:

Larry reviewed the following items in the mail folder:

1. A letter from SPNHF with regard to monitoring reports.
2. A program brochure from the New Hampshire Timber Harvesting Council.
3. A letter from NH Fish and Game advising of an anticipated cut at the Owl Brook Training Facility in the summer of 2018.

OLD ITEMS:

- Status of Northern Pass – It was noted that the SEC had submitted their written report denying the application. It was up to Eversource to appeal.
- Status of trail work in Pilote Forest – it was noted that work was progressing.
- Monitoring reports – Larry asked that folks consider beginning work on them.
- Update on Warrant Articles at Town Meeting – all of the articles passed.
- Report on Open House at Howe Forest- Larry thanked all of those who attended.

NEW ITEMS:

- Changes to Wetlands Rules – Larry noted the NHDES was in the process of revising their Wetlands Rules. He provided some background on the NHDES process as well as links for

reviewing some of the changes. It was noted that NHDES would be conducting hearings in September and October to take additional input with regard to their proposed changes. He suggested that the Commission review the suggested changes and comment to NHDES. Of particular concern were the changes to review times for applications which may impact the Commission's opportunity for comment.

- The Stonewall Project- Larry provided some information with regard to an online project to locate and map stonewalls in New Hampshire.
- Visitor Desk at Livermore Falls Park – Larry mentioned that the Friends group was looking for volunteers to staff the visitor desk at Livermore Falls from July 1 thru Labor Day.

4. Report of Special Places Meeting – Larry mentioned that it was a very good conference.

Town wide cleanup for Earth Day- 4/22/18. Bags would be made available and a sign will be out at the Transfer Station. It will also be noticed on the Town website.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- NE Natural History Conference- April 13-15 in Burlington Vermont.
- Drinking Water Source Protection Conference – May 17 at the Grappone Center in Concord.
- The next Commission meeting –May 8, 2018 at 4PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

L. Spencer adjourned the meeting at 5:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Capone
Town Administrator