

# TOWN OF HOLDERNESS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, 11 June 2019

4:00 P.M.

## Minutes

**Members Present:** Larry Spencer, Chairman; Anne Packard, Shelagh Connelly

**Members Not Present:** Brian Gagnon, Jacquelyn Jewell, Ben Amsden, Woodie Laverack, Ex Officio

**Staff Present:** Linda Levy, Land Use Boards Assistant

**Guests:** Tiffany Grade and Harry Vogel from the Loon Preservation Committee

**Call to Order:** Larry Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:05.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Commission approved the minutes of May 14, 2019

### MAIL CHECK:

1. Compass – FEMA field surveying activities in the Pemi Watershed
2. NHDES Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau Newsletter
3. National Woodland Owners Assoc. – Spring 19 magazine
4. DES notification of returned application for wetlands permit for 228-045-000 (Gregory Finigan) for illegible site map scale

### OLD ITEMS:

1. Spring tasks on properties – Scott Bishop did not get back to Anne regarding the roof over the kiosk
2. Northern Pass
3. Monitoring reports for 2019
4. NHDES application for waterfront property work (L. Spencer signed off on this proposal)

### NEW ITEMS:

1. Second visit of Kevin Ryan to properties – Linda sent his report to the Commissioners
2. Next steps on the Howe Town Forest Easement
3. Summer Schedule and Duties – Shelagh will be going out to Chabot and Swainey Brook.
4. Update on student work on DDT in Squam Lake, Bennet Cove and thoughts about Loons on Squam Lake (see item #8)
5. Squam Lakes Conservation Society proposal for NRI on White Oak Pond
6. Outcomes of the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at the SLA on Climate Change – this was a good program with talks on climate change and Boston
7. The Meredith Village Savings Bank sent a notice that the CC account has not been used. M. Capone asked L. Levy to see if the Commission would be willing to close the account.
  - Motion: To close the MVSBS account and to move the money into the CC account  
Motion: L. Spencer  
Second: A. Packard

Discussion: None

Motion Passed: 3-0-0-3

8. Visit from Harry and Tiffany from the Loon Preservation Committee

- Tiffany shared information related to the loon population decline on the Squam Lakes. Notes of interest:
  - Loons are tracked by banding
  - They suspect that the reason for the decline is due to contaminants in the water (DDT, PCB, flame retardants, PFAS, etc.) found in the eggs. The amount found is 2-7 times higher than loons on other lakes.
  - Most loons have been lost from the northeast part of the lake (Sandwich, Rockywold and around the Yard Islands)
  - Crawfish have been tested and found increase in contaminants in the areas around Bennett Brook, Kesumpe Pond and Bean Rd.
  - They are in the process of tracking down the DDT source on Bennett Brook
  - In the 40's and 50's there was an apple orchard near the Bennett Brook that sprayed the orchard. Questioning if the waste is from that area.
  - The Squam lakes loon population is below half that of the rest of the state, which affects the population's ability to grow.
  - Lead poisoning is another factor that is being explored. Legislation has helped decrease lead poisoning in loons (tackle shops can't sell and people can't use lead while fishing). This year, there is 1 confirmed and 1 suspected death by lead poisoning. Tackle shops are offering cash for lead fishing tackle to try to get rid of old tackle. People get a \$10 voucher for turning in lead.

**Up Coming Meetings**

1. Upcoming meeting on Engaging Community: Identifying Solutions Related to Jobs, Housing, and Sustainability in our Towns, Wednesday June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Flying Monkey

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:05.