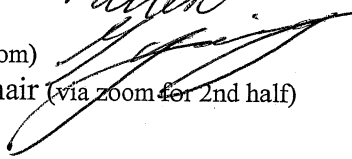


ALTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING (Draft)

ALTON TOWN HALL

February 11, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

approved
3-11-21
as written


Members Present:

Gene Young, Chairman

Virgil Macdonald, Selectmen Rep

Melinda Ferreira, Secretary

Dana Rhodes

Bob Doyle

Russ Wilder (via zoom)

Earl Bagley, Vc Chair (via zoom for 2nd half)

Members Absent:

Quinn Golden

Others Present:

Thomas Diveny (via zoom)

Call Meeting to Order: Gene Young, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Announcements: Gene Young, Chairman, read the following notice into the record.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE: To keep our members and staff safe, and to comply with RSA 91-A, the COVID-19 State of Emergency, and the Governor's Orders on restrictions at public gatherings, the Town of Alton is holding "remote audio participation meetings". If you cannot attend remotely, please contact the Conservation Secretary at 603-875-2164 or mferreira@alton.nh.gov for further instructions. To remotely attend the meeting visit our website: www.Alton.nh.gov for telephone access and Zoom access instructions listed under News and Announcements on the home page the day of the meeting. If you are having difficulties accessing the remote meeting, please call 603-507-1002 and someone will assist you.

The Commission voted on October 8, 2020 to temporarily suspend in-person public input due to the SARS-coV-2 pandemic. If the public has comments, the comments can be emailed to the Conservation Commission at conservation@alton.nh.gov or sent via US postal mail to Town of Alton Conservation Commission, PO Box 659, Alton NH 03809, and the comments will be read into the record. The Commission will respond to comments as is appropriate.

Approval of Agenda: *V.Macdonald moved to accept the Agenda and was seconded by R.Wilder. Roll Call: G.Young, Chair-aye; R.Wilder-aye; B.Doyle-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; V.Macdonald-aye. Motion passed, 5-0-0*

Approval of Minutes:

January 14, 2021- *R.Wilder moved to approve the minutes and was seconded by V.Macdonald. Roll Call: G.Young, Chair-aye; R.Wilder-aye; B.Doyle-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; V.Macdonald-aye. Motion passed, 5-0-0*

Presentations/Consultations:

- 1) Thomas Diveny- Alternate Member Interview- T.Diveny introduced himself to the Commission and explained why he was interested in serving as the first Alternate. Members agreed he would be a good addition with his background in environmental & municipal management and with the National Park Service. G.Young stated we would inform the Board of Selectmen (BOS) of the Commission's intention to have him appointed as Conservation Alternate at their March meeting when appointments are done for the next three year term.

Planning Board/ZBA Agenda Items:

- 1) Department Head Review Request- Lowell & Dorla Hall- 3 Verna Ln, M34 L33-91. Special Exception to expand existing cabin. G. Young informed the Commission he did not support making a non-conforming lot more non-conforming. In this case, they were increasing the amount of impervious

surface which could increase the amount of storm runoff into Lake Winnepesaukee. (Gene Young signed off on the Zoning Review with said comments on 1/28/21)

Standard Wetlands Dredge and Fill Applications:

- 1) **Bruce & Kristen Gurall- 102 Pipers Point Rd, M21A L19-** Single stepped 4' wide water access to lake to safely access the lake w/ canoe's kayaks & provide swimming. Impact will be 6 linear feet and approx. 7.6sqft of 'bank' impact. Temporary Impacts to facilitate construction will be 34sqft. Discussion ensued and the Commission found no concerns. *R. Wilder made a motion indicating the Commission has no objections to the application. V.Macdonald seconded the motion. Roll Call: G.Young, Chair-aye; R.Wilder-aye; B.Doyle-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; V.Macdonald-aye. Motion passed, 5-0-0*
- 2) **Dumouchel- Big Barndoor Island, M81, L12-** RFMI by NHDES has been addressed by the applicant's representative, Allen Folsom, and revised application eliminating the proposed breakwater & plans have been submitted. DES Approved 2/1/21. Brief discussion ensued. No concerns were found as this was already reviewed previously.
- 3) **Brian & Margaret Mullen- 995 Suncook Valley Rd, M22 L11-** Replace existing retaining walls & make improvements to existing beach area on Halfmoon Lake. Discussion ensued. Only small temporary impact will be involved. The Commission had no concerns. *B.Doyle made a motion to indicate the Commission has no objections with this application. D.Rhodes seconded the motion. Roll Call: B.Doyle-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; V.Macdonald-aye; R.Wilder-aye; G.Young, Chair-aye. Motion passed, 5-0-0*
- 4) **Paul & Shawna Gvazdauskas- 90 Smith Point Rd, M64 L3-** Replace boathouse, remove and replace docks, and convert depression along shore into perched beach. Permanent impact of 180sq ft & temporary impact will be 120sqft. No change in size or height. R.Wilder questioned whether the depressed area where they want to put the beach contains or encompasses a wetland area, or if it's some kind of an outlet for drainage and if there was any sensitive wetland vegetation there? Discussion ensued. B.Doyle made the motion to question whether there's wetlands. *D.Rhodes seconded the motion. Roll Call: V.Macdonald-aye; B.Doyle-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; R.Wilder-aye; G.Young, Chair-aye. Motion passed, 5-0-0*

Wetland Permit by Notification (PBN):

- 1) **Gregory & Liane Zielinski- 150 Roger St, M55 L3-** Repairs to an existing rock jetty, dock & walkway with no additional impacts to NHDES jurisdiction. (signature requested- 2/4/21) Discussion ensued. No concerns were found.
- 2) **Barbara Fletcher- 365 Rattlesnake Island, M77, L6-** Installation of a dock anchoring pad to support a 6x40 seasonal lift out dock. (signature requested- 2/10/21) Discussion ensued. No concerns were found.

Minimum Impact Expedited Applications:

- 1) **Amlicke- 96 Black Point Rd, M45 L10-** Repair will have a temp 443sqft impact for repairs of existing structures & 500sqft new seasonal impact for proposed seasonal boatlift & canopy. Repair has no change in size, location, etc and classifies as min. impact. (signature requested- 2/5/21) Discussion ensued. No concerns were noted.
- 2) **Fabrizio & Jennifer Cusson- Cooke Rd, M1 L34-** Proposed 780sqft impact along narrowest part of forested wetland for driveway crossing. Property has only one buildable upland area where new home will be. (signature requested- 2/8/21) Discussion ensued. No concerns were found.

6:40PM- G. Young, Chairman, noted E. Bagley, Vice Chairman, had joined the meeting via Zoom at this time, but we could not hear him, and do not know if he could hear us due to technical difficulties; therefore unfortunately, was not able to partake in any discussions or votes.

Shoreland Permit Application: None.

Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN): None.

Notification of Routine Roadway Maintenance Activities: None.

Reoccurring/Unfinished Business & Projects:

- 1) **Visible ID-** D. Rhodes passed out laminated ID cards to everyone in attendance. All others will be available for pickup in the Conservation Office at Town Hall. Everyone commented they looked great and were a good idea to have when Commissioners are out in the field.
- 2) **Green Oak Realty-** G. Young read aloud the letter that Varney Engineering wrote to the Commission responding to concerns of the material of the restoration slope along the Green Oaks/Barbarossa property line. A cross section of the slope is up to 20' high and 30' wide. R. Wilder questioned the permeability for keeping the groundwater in the Conservation wetland on the Barbarossa property; adding that what Varney is talking about has nothing to do with not allowing the ground water to drain out of the wetland and into the pit. G. Young stated that Varney's letter regarding the fill material does not address the Conservation's issue. The Commission is not concerned with building a road, but rather keeping water in the wetland. Since the Commission wouldn't be qualified to make a response, discussion ensued over researching who they could ask about that, such as perhaps a hydrologist or geotechnical person to be able to respond. R. Wilder stated the Planning Board has a contract with the Town Engineer and they could have a geotechnical engineer look at it in regards to what the Commission wants to see, which is a hydraulic barrier built along the wall. The Commission was in agreement to talk with John and the Town Engineer from the point of view of a hydraulic barrier rather than a road before they responded to the letter.
- 3) **Monitoring-** None.
- 4) **Canoe & Kayak Access to Merrymeeting River-** Q. Golden was to draft a letter requesting Brad Bissell speak to the Commission regarding his interest in the project. The update was tabled as Q. Golden couldn't be here this evening.
- 5) **Gaia GPS Professional Account-** G. Young informed the Commission that the yearly subscription was purchased but not much work will happen with that until they get closer to monitoring in the fall. R. Wilder requested if we could get instruction on how to access/manage the files. G. Young suggested that during the summer or early fall, there could be a work session on it, whereas the whole idea was to get the monitoring as electronic as possible so we're not storing so much paper and have it accessible to all Commission members.
- 6) **Gilman Pond Field Mowing-** (Rodney Sanborn (2016), Benjamin Thompson 534-4494 (2018), Andrew Morse 817-8191, Burt Morse 455-2605, Dave Avery 569-9162). G. Young stated the prior were just some contacts to keep in mind for mowing, and that in April or May we should put an Ad in the paper looking for others to mow. G. Young has the equipment, but cost prohibitive to get it transported there due to the length. Discussion ensued. Mowing must occur between August 15 and October 1st due to bird nesting season.
- 7) **Monitoring Records Database setup on Town servers-** G. Young reiterated that Wes Demers, UNH Volunteer, was working on setting up a database to replace the Conservation folders in the Heidke Room. We will have an update when W. Demers is here next.

Commissioner Reports:

- 1) **Randy Joyner-** R.Wilder reached out to Randy as he and his wife were in the paper recently for an award they received from the NH Association of Conservation Districts for the way they have handled his land over in East Alton. He's someone R.Wilder hopes the Commission can keep in touch and work with in the future as the New Durham/Alton town line stretch is one of the biggest blocks of open land in the area.

New Business & Projects:

- 1) **Big Lake Half Marathon Request for use of Lakeshore Rail Trail-** G.Young informed the Board of a request from Mike St. Laurent of LOCO Sports LLC who's involved in planning the marathon on May 15th from 8-11am, and would like to use about 3/4 mile portion of the Rail Trail. The section used would be from the northern intersection of Woodland to the southern intersection of Woodland and the approx. 650 runners would be very well stretched out at the start so that other walkers or bikers could easily share the path. They would plan to clean up the trail section they run on and police the trail after the race is over. Brief discussion ensued and there were no issues noted. *D.Rhodes made a motion to allow the use of the Rail Trail for the marathon and was seconded by B.Doyle. Roll Call: V.Macdonald-aye; B.Doyle-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; R.Wilder-aye; G.Young, Chair-aye. Motion passed, 5-0-0*
- 2) **Upcoming Reappointments- R.Wilder & B.Doyle-** R.Wilder & B.Doyle stated they would both like to go forward with reappointment which is in March.
- 3) **Shape Files for Timbers, PMHS & Hussy Properties-** G.Young stated some of the shape files can be based on a tax map, but these properties only have a portion of the property in the Conservation Easement, not the entire parcel, so it makes it challenging to come up with a good shape file. Discussion ensued. On some of the large parcels, such as the High School which is 5 parcels, it's difficult to find the property boundaries. G.Young asked if the Board consider contacting whoever we need to and if they can, at a reasonable cost, generate a shape file for us to complete our collection. This way anytime anyone wanted to go out to one of those properties, you'd have the boundaries accessible on your phone. R.Wilder suggested going back to the surveyors of the original easements, such as Bryan Bailey who did the Timbers property. Discussion ensued. R.Wilder will talk to Bryan Bailey about the Timbers property since he's familiar with it. *B.Doyle made a motion to authorize researching that cost. D.Rhodes seconded the motion. Roll Call: B.Doyle-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; V.Macdonald-aye; R.Wilder-aye; G.Young, Chair-aye. Motion passed, 5-0-0*
- 4) **Tom Howe Memorial Donation-** G.Young explained to those members who may not have known Tom that he was in charge of land acquisitions for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests aka (Forest Society) and was a very well-liked and respected member of the Conservation Community who was killed recently in an accident. Tom was responsible for getting the big Mt. Major project going and was continuing to work on more projects in Alton. The Commission is sending a card to his wife and she has asked that any donations be made through the Forest Society in his memory. Discussion ensued over a contribution amount which could be earmarked for different projects, such as Mount Major, but that would be respectful of the fact that this is taxpayer monies as well. *After some discussion, B.Doyle made a motion to donate \$200, earmarked for Mt. Major, to the Tom Howe Memorial and was seconded by R.Wilder. Roll Call: V.Macdonald-aye; B.Doyle-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; R.Wilder-aye; G.Young, Chair-aye. Motion passed, 5-0-0*

Notice of Intent to Cut Timber:

- 1) **Daniel Webster Council-** Levitt Rd off of Places Mill Rd, M10 L1- No concerns.
- 2) **Michael & Carol Letourneau-** Old Wolfeboro Rd, M12 L42- No concerns.

Correspondence:

- 1) **Bank Statements for Con/Com & Forest Fund Review**

- 2) **DES Shoreland Permit- John & Jill Andy, 156 Black Point Rd, M44 L46- Approved- 1/14/21**
- 3) **DES Wetlands Permit- Heidi & Mark Knipe, 37 Brook & Bridle Ln, M21 L10- Approved 1/15/21**
- 4) **DES Shoreland Permit- Beth & Bradley Newell, 9 Garden Park Rd, M60 L20- Approved 1/21/21**
- 5) **DES Shoreland Permit- Heidi&Jeffrey Woods, 452 Rattlesnake Isle, M78 L18- Approved 1/26/21**
- 6) **DES Wetlands Permit- Linda &Mark Dumouchel, Big Barndoor Isle, M81 L12- Approved 2/1/21**
- 7) **SPNHF Membership Renewal Form-** Whereas the Commission didn't recall what the variable membership amount from last year was, it will be researched and brought up at the next meeting.
- 8) **Cyanobacteria Committee- Email from Town Administrator-** G.Young informed the Commission as an FYI about an email received from Town Administrator, Liz Dionne, regarding trying to get a grant to do some work down around Mill Pond for water testing. There are some flow meters installed in Coffin Brook and down below the Alton Dam and with the low water of last year, the flow meters weren't properly calibrated for that low a flow, so now need to be calibrated. At the last Cyanobacteria meeting, the funding to do that was approved. Discussion ensued about the parking lot there that had transformers stored back in the day and recommending some grant monies be used towards that perhaps. G.Young will keep the Commission updated with trying to get some grants for this area.

Adjournment: *B.Doyle moved to adjourn at 7:20pm and was seconded by D.Rhodes. Roll Call: G.Young, Chair-aye; R.Wilder-aye; B.Doyle-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; V.Macdonald-aye. Motion passed, 5-0-0*

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda N Ferreira
Building Department/Conservation Secretary

