

**ALTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING**

ALTON TOWN HALL

June 10, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

*approved
7/8/21
Gene Young*

Members Present:

Gene Young, Chairman

Virgil Macdonald, Selectmen's Rep

Melinda Ferreira, Secretary

Quinn Golden, Vice Chairman

Tom Diveny, Alternate

Earl Bagley

Dana Rhodes

Members Absent:

Russ Wilder

Bob Doyle

Call Meeting to Order: Gene Young, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:04pm and appointed Tom Diveny, Alternate, to take R. Wilder's seat as a full voting member of the Commission for this meeting.

Announcements: 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:

Approval of Minutes:

April 22, 2021- G.Young stated he would like amend the minutes to add under 'Call Meeting to Order:' that "Chairman Young appointed T.Diveny, Alternate, to take Q.Golden's seat as a full voting member of the Commission for this meeting". He would also like to add under 'Announcements:' that "Chairman Young read the following announcement into the record".

D.Rhodes moved to accept the Minutes as amended and was seconded by V.Macdonald. Roll Call: T.Diveny-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; V.Macdonald-aye; Q.Golden-aye; E.Bagley-aye; G.Young, Chair-aye. Motion passed, 6-0-0

May 27, 2021- D.Rhodes made the motion to approve the minutes as written and was seconded by V.Macdonald. *Roll Call: T.Diveny-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; V.Macdonald-aye; Q.Golden-aye; E.Bagley-aye; G.Young, Chair-aye. Motion passed, 6-0-0*

Presentations/Consultations: None.

Planning Board/ZBA Agenda Items:

1) Patricia O'Leary- 1787 Mount Major Highway, M66 L7

Zoning Department Head Review for Special Exception of the Zoning Ordinance to permit the expansion of 200sqft on the second floor only, above the current existing first floor living space.

(G.Young signed 4/27/21) The Commission had no concerns.

- 2) **John Matarozzo Jr- Sadco/Jones & Beach Engineers- Suncook Valley Rd, M9 L6**
Zoning Department Head Review for Special Exception of the Zoning Ordinance to permit boat storage and contractor equipment storage in the Rural Zone.
(G.Young signed 4/27/21) The Commission found no concerns.
- 3) **Douglas Brown & Susan Sciotto-Brown- 1179 Mount Major Hwy, M17 L7-1**
Planning Department Head Review Request to conduct a home business in their basement as an automotive dealer/mechanical restoration (3-5 autos per year). No employees- business will be owner operated. No customer or client traffic. *The Commission had no concerns.*

Standard Wetlands Dredge and Fill Applications:

- 1) **Perrillo Family Trust- Quarry Rd, M18 L1-** Intermittent stream crossing for access to a home site. The installation of the culvert and driveway crossing is permanent. Hydrology analysis has been done for 50 & 100year storm events. *The Commission found no concerns.*
- 2) **Christopher Andrews- Big Barndoor Island, M80 L29-** Construct a 615sqft rock breakwater with a 3x34 cantilevered pier to a 4x12 walkway to a 6x30 piling dock in a 'U' configuration accessed by a 4x10 walkway to shore to provide 2 protected boat slips safe docking. Breakwater is a straight breakwater design with small dogleg at the lakeward most end minimizing impacts when compared to other design alternatives. This property experiences significant wave energy and wrap around effects from prevailing winds that travel across the broads & directly impact Big Barndoor Island & Clay Point. *Brief discussion regarding the length that the breakwater extended, but the Commission had no concerns.*

Wetland Permit by Notification (PBN):

- 1) **Daniel & Jennifer Harding- 94 Piper's Point Ln, M21A L16-** Repair existing permanent piling dock and three attached stairs that were severely damaged by ice. No change in size or location is proposed. This project will result in temp impacts of 200sqft to the lake, 18sqft to the bank and 6 linear ft to the bank. Proper sediment and erosion controls will be installed prior to repairs and maintained until work & debris removal has been completed. *The Commission had no comments on this project.*
- 2) **Michael Gallup- 88 Piper's Point Ln, M21A L15-** Repair existing permanent piling dock and supports that were severely damaged by ice. No change in size or location is proposed. This project will result in temp impacts of 196sqft to the lake. Proper sediment and erosion controls will be installed prior to repairs and maintained until work & debris removal has been completed. *The Commission found no concerns.*
- 3) **Gregory & Jennifer Findlen- 91 Sunset Shore Dr, M70 L7-** Install 6x30 seasonal dock that will be attached to the shore by a 4x7 concrete hinge pad, and install single seasonal boatlift and 2 seasonal PWC lifts. *The Commission had no comments on this project.*
- 4) **Kolodziej & Alpers- 189 Trask Side Rd, M42 L17-1-** Repair existing grandfathered dock (+-330) supported by 14x15 wood/rock crib support. Appropriate erosion controls to be utilized. *The Commission found no concerns.*
- 5) **Laura A Sagris Rev Trust of 2000- 362 Big Barndoor Island, M81 L9-** Repair existing permitted breakwater damaged by ice by replacing 2cu yds of fallen rock back into the breakwater in the original location. All work to be done in like kind with no expansion of the existing structures. *The Commission had no concerns.*

Minimum Impact Expedited Applications:

- 1) **Alston Realty Trust- 119 Echo Point Rd, M41 L11-** Repair ice damage to northeast dock. Bargs Inc to replace damaged structure and remove old crib which is falling apart, and install protective poles where necessary. *(G.Young signed 5/7/21) The Commission had no concerns.*

Shoreland Permit Applications:

- 1) **Andrew & Shannon Kenney- 200 Woodlands Rd, M56 L38-** Install a driveway to access backend of the lot, crossing through shoreland area with a centerline distance of 145' and a total area of 1734sqft. (Commission Received 4/12/21; DES Approved 4/13/21) *The Commission had no comment on the project.*
- 2) **Boucher, Lorraine- 30 Varney Rd, M22 L18-** Replace existing structures and move 6' landward to be more nearly conforming. The existing 840sqft primary structure will be replaced and expanded with a 1237sqft structure. The proposed expansion will take place beyond the 50ft setback, with an 18" drip edge surround the building. The applicant also proposes to reconfigure the existing decks & construct a 320sqft attached garage beyond the 50ft setback; replace the existing dirt parking area with pervious driveway; remove an existing 64sqft shed within the 50ft setback; and replace the septic system. *Brief discussion ensued. The Commission had no comment on the project.*
- 3) **Lee Michael Mclean- 35 Brook & Bridle Ln, M21 L12-3-** Owner proposes to construct a new addition to the existing house, and add an underground LP tank and install a new sewage disposal system. *The Commission found no concerns.*
- 4) **Christopher Andrews- Big Barndoor Island, M80 L29-** Applicant proposes to temporarily impact 4150+-sqft to construct a new 3 bedroom septic, 2 bedroom cottage, w/attached decks, stepping stone path to proposed dock & provide a 150sqft deck placed approx. 22' from shore. There are 2 trees required to be removed within the waterfront segments to facilitate the path and deck construction, but the impacted segment will have more than the required 25 points remaining. The new septic will be located approx. 150' from the reference line. Total impacts within the shoreland will equal 6058sqft. *Brief discussion regarding the onsite trees. The Commission had no concerns.*
- 5) **Wolfe Property Holdings Inc- 40 Tranquility Ln, M18 L39-7-** The owners propose to tear down existing house and rebuild with new home and attached garage. The existing garage will remain as is, and the driveway will be reconfigured. The house will tie into the existing community septic field. *The Commission had been concerned about the house being shown over the stone retaining wall, therefore a site visit was scheduled. It was found that the house's foundation will become part of the retaining wall. The Commission's concerns were satisfied.*

Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN): None

Notification of Routine Roadway Maintenance Activities: None

Reoccurring/Unfinished Business & Projects:

- 1) **Green Oak Realty- Working on Cease & Desist.** Nothing new to report.
- 2) **Monitoring-** Nothing new to report.

- 3) **Canoe & Kayak Access to Merrymeeting River-** G.Young and D.Rhodes updated the Commission that the offer to purchase was rejected by the seller; therefore the public hearing that was supposed to be held Thursday, May 20th was cancelled. The seller rejected the offer due to the offering price being too low, the closing date being too far out, and not wanting the stipulation that an appraisal be performed. Brief discussion ensued over other possible land acquisitions. D.Rhodes suggested trying to plan further ahead next time if possible as the timing with the grant applications is very limited. Brief discussion ensued over procedural timelines and the fact that when dealing with municipal purchases, it requires more time for approvals and acquisitions of up to a year or two sometimes, even when land is just gifted to a Town. Q.Golden composed a letter of interest in land and it was sent to Brad Bissell to inquire about his property on Route 28 that has access to the Merrymeeting Marsh as well. Discussion then moved to another double lot with a ROW in between them on Rte 28 as well that may be of interest on that side of the marsh. *D.Rhodes made the motion to not proceed any further with the purchase of land on Rte 11 and was seconded by Q.Golden. Roll Call: T.Diveny-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; V.Macdonald-aye; Q.Golden-aye; E.Bagley-aye; G.Young, Chair-aye. Motion passed, 6-0-0*
- 4) **Gaia GPS Professional Account-** Nothing new to report.
- 5) **Gilman Pond Field Mowing- Rodney Sanborn (2016), Benjamin Thompson 534-4494 (2018), Andrew Morse 817-8191, Burt Morse 455-2605, Dave Avery 569-9162-** Nothing new to report.
- 6) **Shape Files for Timbers, PMHS & Hussy Properties-** Nothing new to report.
- 7) **Natural Resource Inventory Update-** G.Young informed the Commission about the quotes received from Stoney Ridge Environmental (\$6820) who could have the project complete by the end of October & FB Environmental (Fred Bell) (\$10-16k). Discussion ensued about the estimated costs and what those included. G.Young met with the Town Administrator who verified that the Commission did not need to go out to bid since due diligence was done in looking for quotes. Discussion then ensued regarding the use of funds for the NRI update. The Town Administrator also found that the use of the Conservation Fund did not require BOS approval. As per RSA36-A:5, only the Conservation Commission can authorize to spend this money since the Fund was approved at Town Meeting back in 1970. *Q.Golden moved to accept the offer from Stoney Ridge Environmental to update the NRI and secure \$5k from the current Conservation budget and up to an additional \$1825 from the potential surplus of other line items in the budget to cover the cost of the quote. E.Bagley seconded the motion. Roll Call: T.Diveny-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; V.Macdonald-aye; Q.Golden-aye; E.Bagley-aye; G.Young, Chair-aye. Motion passed, 6-0-0*

Commissioner Reports:

- 1) **New DPW Director, Scott Kinmond-** G.Young informed the Commission that R.Wilder had brought up the idea of inviting the new Public Works Director, S.Kinmond, to a meeting, as it may be useful to get acquainted and let him know what was on the Commission's mind regarding upcoming projects. G.Young stopped and visited with him who agreed. They also discussed enlarging the Mike Burke Town Forest parking lot as there's a lot of overflow cars parking on the road and he'd offered to meet onsite to discuss. The Commission thought it was a good idea and discussion ensued over a good time to get together in the late afternoon. G.Young will coordinate. Discussion ensued over signage on Jesus Valley Rd as folks were being blocked in and hikers were walking through private yards; therefore had to close access down from there.
- 2) **Alton Rotary-** Q.Golden informed the Commission he met with the Alton Rotary Club this morning to speak about the Commission and what its' mission is and the RSA's that guide us. He talked about trails

and projects, outreach with Scouts, etc., and stated it was very well received. Most had no idea what the Commission did. Brief discussion over outreach opportunities ensued.

- 3) **Social Media Update-** Q.Golden updated the Commission on the status of the Conservation Facebook page which is doing well with upwards of 600 views reacting to postings, shares, etc. There was spirited debate regarding the floating island in town for example. Quite a few posts were being shared and discussed on other pages, which is a good sign.
- 4) **Trout Unlimited Project Updates-** Q.Golden informed the Commission he's been having difficulty getting updates from Trout Unlimited regarding the progress at Hurd Brook. He'd like to update the social media page so asked for help getting them to respond so he has information to post. While on the prior site visit though, the group went through a piece of town owned land in the area of the old landfill. He thinks it would be worth a discussion to see if it should be conserved since its bordering the active project on Hurd Brook. V.Macdonald mentioned the contamination/monitoring status and the BOS not being sure what they wanted to do with the about 57.5 acre piece yet (M15 L49). Discussion ensued. The Commission will keep an eye on the matter.

New Business:

- 1) **Motion to Rescind Hold on Public Input-** The Governor ended the State of Emergency on the afternoon of June 10th therefore, the Commission must vote on rescinding the hold on public input that was voted on October 8, 2020. Everyone in attendance will still have to social distance, but the meetings can go back to business as usual without Zoom being needed. Discussion ensued over moving meetings back to the Heidke Room as the acoustics make it easier to hear one another. If any member of the public was in attendance, however, we would move the meeting to upstairs where there is more room. *D.Rhodes made the motion to rescind the temporary hold on public input that was voted on October 8, 2020 due to the SARS-coV-2 pandemic and to go back to standard in-person meetings as we were doing prior to the State of Emergency. E.Bagley seconded the motion. Roll Call: T.Diveny-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; V.Macdonald-aye; Q.Golden-aye; E.Bagley-aye; G.Young, Chair-aye. Motion passed, 6-0-0*
- 2) **NH Lakes Membership Renewal-** Invoice received. The Commission discussed what the group has/hasn't done in the past and determined we should contact them before renewing our \$300 partner level membership fee to ask what they can do in the future as no one had seen them at the public boat ramp for a couple of years to clean watercraft as was done previously. Discussion ensued over other States and Town's ordinances regarding boat washing to deter milfoil, and perhaps that being a good idea to create an Ordinance for Alton. Item was tabled until the next meeting.
- 3) **2022-Budget-** Email from Town Administrator. G.Young stated he will be working on next year's budget and will try to have something ready for the Commission's review at the next meeting in July. He will update Dropbox as he goes along.

Notice of Intent to Cut Timber:

- 1) Kemper Land Holdings LLC- Drew Hill Rd, M19 L31 & 32-
- 2) Justin Cooper- Avery Hill Rd, M10 L6-
- 3) Robert Carr- Dudley Rd, M2 L3-
- 4) Ron & Dorene Charles- Wilburt Way, M31 L30
- 5) Thomas Murray- Old Wolfeboro Rd, M12 L40

Correspondence:

- 1) Budgeted Expense Sheet for Con/Com
- 2) Bank Statements for Con/Com
- 3) Boundary Marker Invoice- Adrian Name Plates
- 4) DES Wetlands Permit- Amra Popovac, 8 Marlene Drive, M71 L8- Approved 4/20/21
- 5) DES Wetlands Permit- Bruce Brown, 22 Notla Ln, M37, L40- Approved 4/27/21
- 6) DES Wetlands Permit- Ogonowski-Michaud Trust, 51 Keewaydin Dr, M38 L23- Approved 4/28/21
- 7) DES RFMI Shoreland-Alimi & Keenan, Hopewell Rd, M21 L6 (eagle nest lot)
- 8) DES Wetlands Permit- Gvazdauskas, 90 Smith Pt Rd- Approved 5/21/21
- 9) DES Shoreland Permit- Alimi/Keenan, Hopewell Rd, M21 L6- Approved 5/27/21

Scout Camp Scholarship- Q.Golden reminded the Commission that there was still a standing offer for the Commission to pay for a week of Scout Camp for any Scout of any level. It was stated that no one has taken up the Commission on their offer yet of a couple of years ago and that the funds should still be available. The cost was thought to be around \$275. Q.Golden thought it would be good to have stated in the record that this money was still available.

Vandalism on Conservation Property at Frohock Brook- D.Rhodes informed the Commission that Q.Golden had sent a photo of a rock up at Frohock Brook that had been vandalized with paint. He checked it out and it was indeed on the Conservation easement. Discussion ensued over how to clean it and filing a complaint with the Police Department to make them aware. Q.Golden will also post the incident on social media to make people aware that this is vandalism.

Adjournment: *D.Rhodes moved to adjourn at 7:15pm and was seconded by T.Diveny. Brief discussion ensued over being able to adjourn without a vote. Roll Call: T.Diveny-aye; D.Rhodes-aye; V.Macdonald-aye; Q.Golden-abstained on principal; E.Bagley-aye; G.Young, Chair-aye. Motion passed, 5-0-1*

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda N Ferreira
Building Department/Conservation Secretary