

**ALTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING**

ALTON TOWN HALL

October 28, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

Approved
11/10/21
Gene Young

Members and others Present:

Gene Young, Chairman

Russ Wilder

Melinda Ferreira, Secretary

Dana Rhodes, Vice Chairman

Tom Diveny

Earl Bagley

David Mank, Alternate

Members Absent:

Virgil Macdonald, Selectmen's Rep

Bob Doyle

Call Meeting to Order: Gene Young, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:02pm and appointed D.Mank, Alternate, to act as full voting member of the Commission for this meeting as there were two absent members.

Public Announcements: None.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda was approved as written.

Presentations/Consultations:

NH Lakes- Lake Host Presentation- Krystal Costa Balanoff, Conservation Program Manager for NH Lakes was present to speak about the Lake Host Program, which is an Aquatic Invasive Species Education & Prevention Program that runs anywhere between May through October. The Town would decide the time of year and hours which paid and/or volunteer Lake Hosts would physically spend at the ramp, as well as their rate of pay. She'd given Commissioners the Lake Host Program Local Administration materials prior to her presentation (Local Coordinator Training Manual & Video Link) to familiarize themselves and keep as a resource; and handed out a PowerPoint presentation. Specific sections to focus on were:

- Local Coordinator Position Description: Pg 5-6
- Grant Application Guidance: Pg 8-10
- Terms of Participation: Pg 10-12
- Lake Host Program Operations: Pg 13
- Local Coordinator Agreement: Pg 14-15
- Lake Host Program 10 Steps to Success: Pg 28-39

K.Balanoff informed the Commission that either one individual, or a team with a shared Local Coordinator role is allowed, and was needed to do administrative work such as employee & volunteer recruitment, training, scheduling, and foremost track the budget, while being the point person between the Town and NH Lakes, ensuring its' Terms of Participation was fulfilled. It would entail a time commitment of about 5 hours per week, and the ability to use spreadsheets along with patience & humor dealing with paid and/or volunteer Lake Hosts. The Lake Host staffers would greet boaters and educate them while collecting data. It is NH law to clean, drain & dry boats and trailers for 5 days in between switching waterbodies, but not many people know about these laws. Having sensible, non-confrontational local town's people or group/team is essential for a successful program. It is also vital for Boater Inspection data to be uploaded daily as award brackets are based on this. She informed everyone that the payroll applications begin in February. It takes \$1000 to start the program along with a match from the Town. The base award is essentially based on the number of ramps with groups being required to remain in good standing in order to be eligible for a payroll award the next season as well. The volunteer match is counted by keeping track of hours, mileage & out-of-pocket expenses, with

groups mandated to make the minimum 100% grant match, submitted to NH Lakes through an online spreadsheet. NH Lakes does the bi-weekly payroll, taxes & covers employee's insurance and the Town would be responsible for staff scheduling and collecting timesheets.

Discussion ensued over Remediation funding which is done through the Milfoil Committee (about 24k per year). A Rapid Response Committee is a good idea and is usually done through the local Milfoil Committee. K.Balanoff stated communities that band together have greater success over invasive control and stated \$2.79 of boater registration fees goes to programs like NH Lakes, with the majority of the fees going to management. E.Bagley inquired as to whether the State did routine inspections on private marinas to ensure compliance with regulations while pumping out holding tanks and washing boats so that none of the runoff went back into the lake. K.Balanoff stated there was not, but that if anyone had a concern, they could contact the State which would then trigger an inspection. G.Young thanked her for her thorough presentation and stated there was a lot to think about for the 2023 tax year, since the 2022 budget was already set. T.Diveny informed the Commission he is on the Milfoil Committee, and unfortunately the Lake Host Program wasn't well received as they had initially wanted to take on more invasive species, but decided against it due to funding worries. Brief discussion ensued over what entity in Town could maybe tackle this Program. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

October 14, 2021- *D. Rhodes made the motion to approve the October 14th Minutes and was seconded by R.Wilder. E.Bagley & T.Diveny abstained as they were not here for the 10/14 meeting. Motion passed.*

PERMITS AND APPLICATIONS

(Any permit or application that has been signed off by the Chair or Vice-Chair is entered here for the record, unless any Commissioner has questions or comments)

Planning Board/ZBA Department Head Review Agenda Items:

- 1) **Z21-28- Janet Sienko & Bruce Mazzochi, 339 Trask Side Rd, M43 L39-** Applicant requests a Variance of the Zoning Ordinance to permit construction of a 2nd level deck over an existing deck, that will encroach into the 30' shorefront setback in the Lakeshore Residential Zone.
Brief discussion ensued. The Commission found no issues as the new deck enlargement was to be built over an existing deck.
- 2) **Z21-29- John Goodrich & Lisa Nicastro, 239 Henry Wilson Hwy, M9 L33-2-** Applicant requests a Special Exception of the Zoning Ordinance to permit a Contractor's Yard as defined in the ordinance in the Residential Rural Zone.
Brief discussion ensued, and the Commission found no issues.

Standard Wetlands Dredge and Fill Applications:

- 1) **John Byette Jr, 20 Notla Ln, Map 37 Lot 41-** Applicant proposes to install a 3-piling ice cluster to protect an existing permanent dock from ice movement.
After brief discussion, the Commission had no concerns.

Wetland Permit by Notification (PBN):

- 1) **Nicholas & Beck Mourgenos, 17 Echo Point Rd, Map 40 Lot 44-1-** Applicant proposes to replace an existing wooden retaining wall adjacent to the beach with a granite rock wall, and replenish an existing beach, utilizing no more than 10 cubic yards of sand. The Commission just last month reviewed, (and they were granted) their Shoreland permit for the driveway, drip edge, and stairs.
(G.Young signed off on 10/21)

- 2) **Shawn Kearns, 195 East Side Dr, Map 35 Lot 51-** Applicant proposes to install a seasonal boat lift on common area property where applicant owns the side of the dock where proposed lift will be. *(No Commission Signature Requested) The Commission had no comments or concerns at this time.*

Minimum Impact Expedited Applications:

- 1) **Andrew Hudak, 838 Rattlesnake Island- Map 76 Lot 79-** Applicant proposes to construct a perched beach behind the full lake reference line, utilizing no more than 10 cubic yards of sand. *(G.Young signed off on 10/19/21)*

Shoreland Permit Applications:

- 1) **James Babson, 61 Cove Point Rd- Map 21 Lot 13-1-** Applicant proposes to pour concrete foundation under a building that currently exists on timber piers. *After brief discussion regarding the topography of the lot and noting nothing was happening within the 50' zone, the Commission noted no concerns.*

Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN): None

Notification of Routine Roadway Maintenance Activities: None

Reoccurring/Unfinished Business & Projects:

- 1) **Green Oak Realty-** Nothing new.
- 2) **Monitoring-**
 - a) **AMR_Stockbridge Forest_2021 & AMR_Tree Growers_Coffin Brook CE & AMR_Mike Burke Forest_Final-** G.Young informed the Commission that he and D.Mank walked the Stockbridge parcel and found some old faded blazes and a few pins. Brief discussion ensued regarding freshening up the blazes with tree spray paint that is about \$6-7 per can. *D.Rhodes made the motion to have G.Young reimbursed for the purchase of a case or carton of tree marking spray paint and was seconded by R.Wilder. All were in favor; motion passed.* None of these three reports need to be sent to the State. Brief discussion ensued over some barbed wire being found on the Mike Burke Forest parcel which G.Young was pleased to find as it seemed to confirm a questionable boundary. It appears the shape file is indeed the actual boundary. R.Wilder volunteered to take any interested members to the Eley/Seavey (208acre) property. G.Young thought perhaps divide and conquer would be best, and will try for walking a piece the following weekend of the 7th around 8am. *R.Wilder made the motion to accept all three monitoring reports, and attach them to this meeting's minutes. He was seconded by T.Diveny. All were in favor. Motion passed.*
- 3) **Canoe & Kayak Access to Merrymeeting River-** D.Rhodes informed the Commission he will try to touch base with Brad Bissell again on his next available Friday off of work.
- 4) **Gaia GPS Professional Account-** Nothing new.
- 5) **Gilman Pond Field Mowing-** Camire Tree Service of Rochester to do mowing in early November now for \$250-\$400.
- 6) **Shape Files for Timbers, PMHS & Hussy Properties-** Nothing new.

- 7) **Natural Resource Inventory Update-** G.Young informed the Commission that Stoney Ridge has been meeting with the Master Plan advisor and answering all the pertinent questions. They're pretty much ready to finalize the NRI update which will be an attachment to the Master Plan.

New Business: None

Notice of Intent to Cut Timber:

- 1) Piecuch, Leopold & Fiona Living Trust- Route 11- Map 16 Lot 25- Supplemental NOI-now 80acre cut
- 2) Kania, Chester- New Durham Rd- Map 9 Lot 32- 15acre cut

Commissioner Reports:

Chairman Report- Nothing new.

Vice Chair Report- Nothing new.

Member Reports-

- 1) **NH Route 11 Planning Study- R.Wilder-** R.Wilder informed the Commission that he attended the Route 11 Corridor Advisory Meeting #1 study session. This corridor is a major east/west highway connecting to Manchester or Portsmouth. The Project Manager is Tobey Reynolds who lives in Alton and works for NHDOT. He presented the Commission with the PowerPoint presentation discussed at the meeting and went over the couple of layout options and reasons for discarding one the proposed past layouts. They had done a traffic count which showed 1800 cars and heavy trucks a day went by in each direction. From the Conservation Commission's point of view, some needs seem to be:
 - Improve shoulder for Safety as it is very narrow in spots (perhaps bike lane)
 - Better drainage for Water Quality, by installing treatment swales/sedimentation basinsDiscussion ensued. A roundabout was discussed at the entrance to West Alton Marina and Route 11A intersection to slow cars down as well as another perhaps at Ellacoya. They will meet four more times, then do a draft plan. If anyone has comments, R.Wilder will take them back to the Committee.

Correspondence:

- 1) Budgeted Expense Sheet/Bank Statements
- 2) NHDES Wetlands Permit- Maurice Tourison Living Trust, 209 Damon Dr, M46 L7
- 3) NHDES Wetlands Permit- CAM Realty Trust, 22 Acorn Ave, M66 L33
- 4) NHDES Shoreland Permit- Joseph Bahnan, 96 Riverlake St, M8 L5
- 5) Tom Hoopes Culvert Email Exchange

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

(Note different date than normal) - **Wednesday**, November 10, 2021, at 6:00pm. There will be a presentation with Pat Tarpey of LWA, and Bob Craycroft regarding water sampling in Alton Bay.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melinda N Ferreira
Building Dept/Conservation Secretary