

**Town of Newington, NH**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 11, 2022

**Call to Order:** Chair Jane Hislop called the August 11, 2022, meeting at 6:30 PM.

**Present:** Vice-Chair Derick Willson; Andrew Meigs; Laura Rogers; Jim Weiner; Alternate Member, Jane Kendall; and Town Planner, John Krebs

**Absent:** Alternate Member, Bill Murray

**1) NHDES Wetlands Application:** Review of notification to repair and replace the Town of Newington dock and stairs at Fox Point

Town Planner, John Krebs reminded the Commission that this was an application for a Permit with Notification that didn't not required comments. Mr. Krebs said he didn't think it worth the expense to the Town to have the engineer attend the meeting, but he would relay any of the Commission's questions to the Board of Selectmen who had contracted the work with Duncan Mellor, P.E.

Commissioner Jim Weiner commented that the Board of Selectmen decided to make safer, and the dock master, Peter Welch had been involved, and that he was comfortable with the engineering.

Chair Hislop added that the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) had observed the storage of personal docks along the shoreline during their training session on erosion along Fox Point, and that the Board of Selectmen needed to remind residents that personal docks were not supposed to be stored on the beaches over the winter, and enforce violations.

*Andrew Meigs moved to recommend NHDES Wetlands Application for a Permit with Notification to repair and replace the Town of Newington dock and stairs at Fox Point. Jim Weiner seconded the motion, and all were in favor.*

**2) Continued Discussion of 2022 Goals, Projects, and Initiatives**

Commissioner Weiner suggested that they change the initiatives for 2022-2023 instead of just 2022.

Discussion ensued regarding initiative topics.

# Town of Newington, NH

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 11, 2022

Vice-Chair Willson noted that Mr. Krebs had recommended having a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss initiatives. Mr. Krebs commented that it would be helpful to the Town if the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission could further identify what roles they could play in delegating initiatives, whether it be Fox Point, or the Town Forest. Commissioner, Jane Kendall said cross board communications were also important to keep one another in the loop, on same page, and to use one another's knowledge base.

Mr. Krebs said an example would be such as discussing calibrating the Town salt spreaders so that salt runoff and costs would be reduced.

Chair Hislop said it was also important to identify stormwater runoff issues as a coastal town.

Mr. Krebs said that the Town only had a small part-time Public Works crew, and it appeared that a lot of maintenance, such as establishing a schedule to clean out culverts such as the culvert at the corner of Fox Point Road and Little Bay Road was not getting done in a timely manner. Commissioner Laura Rogers commented that the Public Works Department might be asking for support, and don't know. Chair Hislop said wonder if state has a program on stormwater drainage. Mr. Krebs said the Commission might talk with the Board of Selectmen and Highway Department about the need to establish a schedule for cleanouts. Mr. Krebs said the fire department in his town cleaned their culverts out with their high-pressure fire hoses, or they could subcontract the job out as most towns did so it would get done on a regular basis. Commissioner Weiner said all culverts in town had been mapped out.

Commissioner Andrew Meigs commented that he had seen vacuum trucks clean out catch basins in other towns, but wondered who many would be needed for the Commercial and Industrial Zones for annual maintenance. Mr. Krebs said it was a good question, and he didn't know which were open or closed on Shattuck Way and Woodbury Avenue.

Chair Hislop noted that three or four years ago DES had a special fund for culvert replacements, but she was not sure if it was still obtainable. Alternate Commissioner, Jane Kendall commented that grants would be good, but no one had made themselves available to write grants when they had been discussed before.

Commissioner Weiner expressed apprehension in applying for grants because of possible strings attached, and the concern that there would not be follow-up after a grant timeline was over. Vice-Chair Willson responded that he understood Commissioner Weiner's hesitation, but it was clear that there were cases of successful grants applications, and asked if anyone in town could write grants. Mr. Krebs replied that he or Town Administrator, Martha Roy could, but it took time, and Ms. Roy and he were both part-time employees with specific duties.

Vice-Chair Willson asked if clearing culverts was under the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction. Mr. Krebs replied that unlike other towns, Newington had a small, part-time highway department, and the Conservation Commission would just be

# Town of Newington, NH

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 11, 2022

voicing their concern for stormwater management, and erosion control to the Board of Selectmen.

Commissioner Weiner commented that Fox Point conservation area was supposed to be mown twice a year. Chair Hislop noted that they were supposed to wait until the meadowlark had stopped nesting. Commissioner Kendall added that they also needed to wait until the Monarch butterflies had completed their cycle of feeding on milkweed before cutting them down.

Mr. Krebs said they put up signs for critical habitat in his town, and so they just needed someone to calibrate those initiatives.

Commissioner Kendall said the topic of invasives was only under Fox Point, but expressed concern with Town and public awareness of invasives and management to prevent spreading. Commissioner Kendall said one example was the timing of roadside and field mowing, especially in the fall that spread the seeds of invasives like Japanese Knotweed, Multiflora Rosa, and Oriental Bittersweet.

On the topic of recommending updating a list for planting disease, drought, and salt tolerant natives species, Mr. Krebs said he talked to the owner of the renovated cider mill on the corner of Fox Point Road, who asked if he should cut his diseased ash trees preventatively because they were dying. Chair Hislop said she would contact an expert at the U.S. Forest Service. Chair Hislop said somewhere using a systemic treatment to suppress the emerald ash borers.

Discussion continued regarding the management of trees in conservation areas like Fox Point and the Old Town Forest. Commissioner Weiner said the Recreation Committee and other groups had been using all terrain vehicles (ATV's), snowmobiles, and even chainsaws to clear paths in the Old Town Forest.

Chair Hislop said need there needed to be better communication and participation between the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission, and the Recreation Committee regarding management of the Old Town Forest, trails, and maps. Commissioner Weiner said there was an issue with getting people to attend and participate in meetings. Mr. Krebs said his town had a forestry advising board that only met six times a year.

Discussion ensued regarding community education topics, such as invasive species, trail maintenance, top ten tree, and educating commercial and industrial partners on salt application. Commissioner Weiner said he wondered about the Town's standards and certifications for road salt application.

Chair Hislop said the Commission hadn't done Community Education outreach for two years, and it might be a good idea to arrange meetings with other departments, and share discussion topics.

Commissioner Rogers asked if Commissioners could email their ideas to one another throughout the month. Mr. Krebs responded that board members could not conduct communications on topics outside of public eye, but they could email him, and he would share them with everyone. Mr. Krebs clarified that board members could talk

# Town of Newington, NH

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 11, 2022

to one another on other topics outside of meetings, but they should never discuss applications.

Mr. Krebs suggested they might consider an informational display outside of the Town Clerk's kiosk, as well as posting information for residents on the Town website, and the Newington Residents Facebook page. Mr. Krebs suggested Commissioners look at other New Hampshire town Conservation Commission sites, such as Durham, Hanover, and Newcastle.

*Jim Weiner moved to ask have Mr. Krebs ask Town administration for a Conservation Commission page on the Town website. Derick Willson seconded the motion, and all were in favor.*

### 3) Other Business and Discussions

#### A) 2023 Budget Discussion

Commissioner Weiner said he had compared the 2022 budget to the 2021 budget, and wanted to know what the \$5,000 carried over was for. Chair Hislop said they always requested \$5,000 in case they needed a consultant, whether for forestry, or wetlands, for instance.

Mr. Krebs said they turned \$5,000 back in 2021, and they would do so again in 2022, but the budget was small; and he recommended that they should add to the consultant budget rather than reduce it because it would be insufficient if there was any issue. Commissioner Weiner said he couldn't see adding until next year when there was a specific use next year.

Mr. Krebs responded that he was a selectman in his town, and he understood level funding, but they needed to consider that maintaining roadside swales would outweigh the small costs. Mr. Krebs said the Conservation Commission budget was probably the smallest budget in town, and it was hard to believe a town with a \$10 tax rate would have difficulty with a \$5,000 consultant budget.

Vice-Chair Willson asked what would happen if they only had a \$5,000 budget, but needed a consultant for \$10,000. Mr. Krebs replied that they couldn't do it. Commissioner Kendall wondered if they might be able to ask the Board of Selectmen to contribute from their consultant budget.

Mr. Krebs said most development projects were reimbursed by applicant, but something like another entity project could need funds for a consultant themselves.

Commissioner Meigs asked if they should put in a request for a webpage developer for their Community Education communications. Commissioner Weiner said he thought they could attach information to the Town website. Chair Hislop said her

# Town of Newington, NH

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 11, 2022

concern was when websites weren't updated. Commissioner Weiner said web design could go under consultant.

Commissioner Rogers asked if they might utilize interns from the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Forestry program. Chair Hislop said they might also consider students from Great Bay Community College or even high school programs. Commissioner Weiner commented that they would need to be managed.

Mr. Krebs said it was great if they thought they could accomplish goals with donations and volunteered labor, but it was illegal to move funds from an existing budget line to another, such as using funds for a consultant to do other purposes. Mr. Krebs said they could ask to reallocate funds for new a new budget, however; and bump up the Community Education budget considering \$500 wouldn't even cover the cost of mailing.

Commissioner Weiner said they could put it all in education. Chair Hislop said she was concerned with asking for \$5,000 for Consulting because they were not sure of costs, and suggested going with \$500 for Community Education, and explain that they might need more in the future.

Commissioner Weiner suggested that they could ask the Board of Selectmen for additional funding if they needed it. Mr. Krebs pointed out that there was no General Fund that can do that, and suggested that they simply move some of the \$5,000 from Consulting to Community Education to allow some of \$5,000 to be encumbered because \$5,000 wouldn't go far. Chair Hislop said no issue with keeping the \$5,000 in the Consultant line in case it was needed, and also had no problem with keeping \$500 in the Community Education line. She said they could ask for more for a web designer the following year.

Commissioner Meigs suggested increasing the Community Education budget to purchase a suitable replacement tree for any resident who had lost an ash tree. Commissioner Weiner responded that it sounded as if that would fall under Beautification, and there could be a watering issue. Commissioner Weiner said watering gators cost \$40+ each, and suggested that they couple that with Community Education on the care of trees. Chair Hislop said they could increase the Community Education budget to \$1,000, and bullet the justification.

Andrew Meigs recommend that they keep the bottom line the same by reducing the Consultant budget line to \$4,500 and increasing the Community Education line to \$1,000.

**Minutes:** Andrew Meigs moved to approve the July 14, 2022, Minutes with corrections as discussed. Jim Weiner seconded, and all were in favor.

**Adjournment:** *Andrew Meigs moved to adjourn. Jim Weiner seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.*

Town of Newington, NH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 11, 2022

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 8, 2022

**Respectfully  
Submitted by:** Jane K. Kendall, Recording Secretary

DRAFT