

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, April 29, 2021

Call to Order: Chair Jane Hislop called the April 29, 2021 Zoom meeting at 6:33 PM.

Present: Andrew Meigs; Ann Morton via Phone; Jim Tucker; Derrick Wilson; Alternate Member, Jane Kendall; John Krebs, Town Planner

Absent: Ben Hutchins; Alternate Member, Bill Murray

Public Guests: Bob Seide; Duane Hyde, Director of Southeast Land Trust

Chair Hislop announced that Derrick Wilson had recently been appointed by the Board of Selectmen as a member, followed by a roll call with Andrew Meigs, Ann Morton, Jim Tucker and Jane Kendall present.

1) **Conservation Easement Review: Adams Homestead** Conservation Easement on property owned by **Bob and Diedre Seide**, located at **148 Nimble Hill Road, Tax Map 11, Lot 11**

Duane Hyde, Director of Southeast Land Trust provided a brief introduction of the Adams Homestead Conservation Easement, and said they were returning because Town counsel, Attorney John Ratigan had made edits that hadn't been seen until they went before the Planning Board for their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Hyde said they agreed to the changes.

Chair Hislop commented that she hadn't been informed that they would be required to go before the Planning Board for a conservation easement recommendation, so she hadn't attended. Town Planner, John Krebs responded that the Board of Selectmen sent their concerns to the Planning Board, and then back to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Krebs said he hoped that the Commission was okay with the language changes so that the Board of Selectmen could close with the Siedes as soon as possible.

Commissioner Jim Tucker said he was fine with the corrections that said the Siedes would discuss any agritourism activities with the Town before doing anything.

Mr. Krebs said some of the Planning Board members had extensive discussions about agritourism with Mr. Siede and Mr. Hyde. Mr. Krebs went on to say that people thought that the language changes that were recommended by Mr. Siede's attorney broadened allowed uses, but agritourism uses were already allowed by the New Hampshire State Legislature. Mr. Krebs said the language requiring approval by the

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, April 29, 2021

Southeast Land Trust and the Town actually made uses more stringent. Mr. Krebs applauded Mr. Siede for his patience.

Alternate Commissioner, Jane Kendall said she was at the Planning Board meeting, and reiterated to the Board that it was clear from previous discussions that no one was trying to or could conduct any activities without approval.

Commissioner Wilson stated that he was an abutter so he would recuse himself from the process. Chair Hislop let Commissioner Wilson know that he still had a voice as an abutter.

Jim Tucker moved to recommend approval of the Adams Homestead Conservation Easement on property owned by Bob and Diedre Seide, located at 148 Nimble Hill Road, Tax Map 11, Lot 11. Andrew Meigs seconded, and Jane Hislop, Jane Kendall, Ann Morton, Andrew Meigs, and Jim Tucker all approved.

Mr. Krebs advised Chair Hislop to send an email of recommendation to Town Administrator, Martha Roy for the Board of Selectmen's meeting on the following Monday.

(Mr. Hyde and Mr. Siede left the meeting at this point in the meeting at 6:43 p.m.)

2) Election of Officers

Jim Tucker recommended Jane Hislop as Chair. Andrew Meigs seconded, and the motion passed with Ann Morton, Jane Kendall, Jim Tucker, Andrew Meigs and Derrick Wilson in favor.

Commissioner Tucker asked if the Commission could have a vicechair. Mr. Krebs replied that the Commission was told that they couldn't have a co-chair, but they could, and did, but either was fine. Chair Hislop said she would like someone that would be available to cover for her when she couldn't respond when she was in the lab at work.

Commissioner Wilson agreed to act as vice chair

Andrew Meigs moved to nominate Derrick Wilson as vice chair. Jim Tucker seconded, and the motion passed with Jane Hislop, Jane Kendall, Ann Morton, Jim Tucker, and Andrew Meigs all approved.

3) Other Business

A) Town Forest

Chair Hislop informed the Commission that the Board of Selectmen were looking for volunteers to serve on a committee to oversee uses in the Town Forest.

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, April 29, 2021

Jane Hislop moved to nominate Jim Tucker as Conservation Commission representative to the Town Forest committee. Derrick Wilson seconded, and Ann Morton, Andrew Meigs, Jim Tucker, Jane Kendall and Jane Hislop all approved.

Chair Hislop said originally the Conservation Commission oversaw uses of the Town Forest, but was unsuccessful in finding a forest manager that was available in the seacoast region, so the Board of Selectmen hired former forest manager, Charlie Moreno, and now they were asking for representatives from the Conservation Commission, Historic District Commission and Planning Board to serve on a committee to oversee uses. Mr. Krebs stated that one of the uses in question was whether all terrain vehicles (ATV's) and snowmobiles would be allowed on the Town Forest trails.

Commissioner Andrew Meigs asked if the Town Forest included the area on both sides of Arboretum Drive, and Chair Hislop said it did.

Chair Hislop also recalled that they had the area surveyed and several dump sites were found. Chair Hislop said it was determined through aerial photographs that the larger dump predated Pease Airforce Base, though much of the dump may have been filled from the razing of farms that were leveled for the Airforce base.

Chair Hislop said the University of New Hampshire Forestry students had also mapped the area on the Nimble Hill Road side.

Commissioner Tucker commented that the original trails were wide, but the mountain bike trails were narrow. Mr. Krebs said Rockingham Planning Commission had a GPS program that could be used for mapping trails.

B) Wetlands

Mr. Krebs said he had forwarded an email from Town Administrator, Martha Roy regarding gravel fill in a stream area at 21 Airport Road that had been discovered when Town engineering consultant, Altus Engineering was doing preliminary review for paving of Airport Road.

Mr. Krebs said David Price at New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) had been informed, but that they thought Town wetlands consultant, Mark West with West Engineering should review the area first. Chair Hislop agreed as Mr. West was familiar with the wetlands in the area. Commissioner Tucker said he would also drive by to review.

Chair Hislop said she would also like to ask DES about grass clippings that were being dumped on a wet section of Fox Point Road.

4) Announcements and Additional Discussions

Commissioner Tucker informed the Commission that the New Hampshire Conservation Commissioners Association membership was up for renewal again.

Commissioner Tucker thanked former Vice-Chair Jim Weiner for his service to the Conservation Commission, and Chair Hislop thanked him as well.

Town of Newington, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes, Thursday, April 29, 2021

Commissioner Tucker asked Chair Hislop if she wanted to continue with Zoom meetings. Chair Hislop suggested that they consider in person meetings after May.

Minutes:

Andrew Meigs made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 11, 2021, with corrections. Jim Tucker seconded and Jane Hislop, Jane Kendall, Ann Morton, Andrew Meigs and Jim Tucker all voted in favor with Derrick Wilson abstaining.

Adjournment:

Derrick Wilson moved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Andrew Meigs seconded, and Jane Hislop, Jane Kendall, Ann Morton, Andrew Meigs, Jim Tucker, and Derrick Wilson all moved to approve.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 10, 2021

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