

Town of Newington, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, September 13, 2018

- Call to Order:** Co-Chair Jane Hislop called the September 13, 2018 meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Present:** Co-Chair Jane Hislop; Commissioners Liz Durfee and Ann Morton; Alternate Jane Kendall
- Absent:** Co-Chair Weiner; Commissioner Jim Tucker; Alternates Sandra Devin; Jane Kendall; Bill Murray; and Town Planner, Gerald Coogan
- Public Guests:** Ted and Liz Connors; Ken Latchaw

1) Discussion on Needle Cast Disease

Co-Chair Hislop announced that the scheduled guest speaker Isabel Munck, USDA-USFS Forest Pathologist at the Durham Lab was not able to attend the meeting and hoped to reschedule for the November meeting. Board of Selectmen Ted Connors and Ken Latchaw asked Co-Chair Hislop to inform them when the discussion was rescheduled so they could attend.

2) Proposal for New Zoning Ordinance Article IX, Wetlands Overlay District

Co-Chair Hislop commented that it had been sixteen years since the wetlands had been updated. She suggested having Town wetlands consultant, Mark West join the Commission during the next meeting to share some of his ideas.

3) Mitigation and Conservation Easements: Ongoing proposal regarding property owned by John and Meg Ripley located at 50 Old Post Road, Tax Map 17, Lot 15

Co-Chair Hislop stated that Town Planner, Gerald Coogan had informed her that the Department of Environmental Services (DES) had sent an Aquatic Resources Fund (ARM) conservation easement agreement for the Ripleys to review and sign. Co-Chair Hislop said she heard that the mitigation amount might have been more than they were told originally, but that no informational supplements had been provided for the meeting

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as expected. Co-Chair Hislop added that she also wasn't sure why DES was sending an ARM's agreement over when it had been the Commission's understanding that Eversource had agreed to pay the Ripley's directly from their mitigation fund to avoid losing the funds to another community project. Co-Chair Hislop added that she recalled that ARM may have rejected the easement and that was another reason Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert asked Eversource if they would pay the mitigation directly.

Commissioner Liz Durfee suggested going over the easement requirements at the next meeting. Alternate Commissioner Jane Kendall suggested having Tracy Degnan with Rockingham County Conservation District check with Eversource to see if the funds would be paid directly through them or go through ARM, then go through the document and sit down with the with Ripleys to see if the terms for funding were still agreeable to them.

Commissioner Durfee suggested that it might also be a good idea to talk directly with DES ARM's director, Lori Summers directly.

4) 2019 Conservation Commission Budget

Co-Chair Hislop reviewed the 2018 and 2019 budget line items. The Commission kept all line items the same as the previous year except for reducing Beautification from \$100 to \$50 and the Town Forest from \$1,500 to \$1,000.

Discussion ensued regarding funding to test and clean up the old dump in the Town Forest. Commissioner Kendall recapped the history of the dump that was shown to have been started before 1954 when Pease Air Force Base went in, so the Air Force would not assume responsibility for the cleanup. Commissioner Kendall added that except for the runoff pollution, there was no way to know if the Air Force also used the dump unless it was tested and analyzed. Co-Chair Hislop suggested that many of the local farmers may have used the dump before they moved off the Air Force base, but she wasn't sure if there were any residents from that era that were still living in town and would remember any more details. Commissioner Morton said she thought Kenny Pickering's and Patty Borkland's families probably lived in town back then.

Co-Chair Hislop said the Commission could return to the Board of Selectmen for additional funds when they decided to continue with a consultant. Commissioner Kendall asked if funds for a cleanup might go into a Capital Improvements Program. Co-Chair Hislop agreed that might be a good idea.

Co-Chair Hislop noted that the Commission had applied for an Aquatic Resource Mitigation grant for the Town Forest, but there were no qualifying wetlands in the Town Forest, so it was denied.

Commissioner Durfee suggested that the Open Space Institute might be up for funding town forests, especially since this was the oldest town forest in the U.S.

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5) Correspondence and Invoices

Co-Chair Hislop announced that the topic of Climate Change at Thoreau's Concord, Massachusetts Walden Pond would be held at the 48th Annual Conference for NH Association of Conservation Commissioners on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at Pembroke Academy, with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and meetings, presentations, work sessions and seminars. Co-Chair Hislop said the Conservation Commission paid annual dues to the association so the conference might be covered for commissioners to attend.

Minutes: *Liz Durfee moved to approve the Minutes for the July 12, 2018 meeting. Ann Morton seconded, and all were in favor.*

Adjournment: *The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.*

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 11, 2018

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

These Minutes were approved and adopted at the November 9, 2018 Conservation Commission Meeting.