



*Town of Weare*  
*Conservation Commission*

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**Conservation Commission**

Andrew Fulton, Chairman  
Stephen Najjar, Vice Chair  
Jeff Jackson  
Lisa Grolljahn  
William Bolton

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION – July 13, 2016 draft MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 7:11 PM by Chairman Fulton.

Members present: Andy Fulton, Steve Najjar, Lisa Grolljahn, Bill Bolton

Guest: Sandy Shaw

1. Sandy Shaw of Bart Clough Road came before the commission. Mr. Shaw is the vice president of a trail riding club called the Piscataquog Area Trailways Association. He offered his and the club's services in trail clearing and maintenance work. Mr. Shaw introduced himself and his organization and expressed interest in learning about the conservation commission and trails in Weare.
2. Vice chairman Steve Najjar reminded the commission that there is an active forestry project demonstration at the Chevy Hill Town Forest, Wednesday July 20<sup>th</sup> 5 to 7 PM. The field trip is sponsored by the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) and being led by our town forester Jeremy Turner of MTL. Those interested should register on PLC's website. Chairman Andy Fulton and member Bill Bolton expressed their interest in attending.
3. Mr. Bolton noted for the record that a correction should be made in the May 2016 meeting minutes since they indicate that he seconded the motion to adjourn and could not have since he wasn't in attendance. Mr. Bolton also noted that we should have the minutes taker helping us since this was approved in our 2016 commission budget. Mr. Fulton noted that he hadn't yet spoken with the town administrator about setting this up.
4. Correspondence:
  - i. Mr. Fulton introduced a June 14, 2016 Letter of Deficiency from the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) Land Management Program to Great North Property Management at Lot 401/4 for wetlands violations. Mr. Fulton is to confirm with Chip Meany that the shoreland work undertaken by the landowner requires a zoning variation for disturbances in the town's 25-foot wetlands buffer. Mr. Najjar reminded the commissioners that the state owns land around Lake Horace to a certain elevation. The commission has a letter from the state, which has chosen not to enforce its ownership. DES Mr. Najjar checked whether the work potentially impacted our Collins Landing easement on a portion of the same property. Research in the Registry of Deeds confirmed that the easement and the wetlands violations are on opposite sides of the property.

Mr. Najjar mentioned that the Forest Society is looking for communications from the commission regarding easement monitoring. Mr. Fulton said it was still on his to-do list. Mr. Bolton asked about monitoring services and stated that good boundary blazing is critical to being able to effectively monitor a property.

- ii. June 24, 2016 NH DOT wetlands permit application for replacement of an 18" culvert with a 36" RCP on Rte. 77 between Blackbirds and Center St. Noted without concern.

- iii. July 6, 2016 NH DOT letter regarding guard rail work at several places along Rte. 114. Noted without concern.
  - iv. June 13, 2016 re. removal of 29 yards of fill from wetlands at 163 Pondview, Map 108/Lot 59. Noted without comment.
  - v. June 22, 2016 MTL request for variance re. Peaslee Harvest
5. Bank statement indicates there is \$650.39 in the unrestricted grant account.
6. Trails Planning:

Ms. Grolljahn stated that she had left a couple of messages for the New Boston Conservation Commission attempting to discuss their trails work but had received no response. Mr. Najjar mentioned that he had not received any response from the Trails Committee re. the trails planning statement of work prepared for the commission. He wondered whether the commission is ready to go forward with a request for proposal (RFP) for trails planning services and potentially trail layout services, along the lines of what we did to retain Jeremy Turner for contract forester services. The commission is looking for someone to manage and steer the town lands trails process, with an eye for tie-ins to existing trails networks so that one could actually go somewhere by trail, not just parcel-specific loops. Mr. Bolton confirmed that the commission's intention is to add value with a focus on trails planning, rather than being purely construction oriented. The planner would then seek out, retain, and oversee other groups like Trail Wrights that engage in trails construction.

Mr. Najjar **motioned** and Mr. Bolton seconded the motion to commit \$25K from the Conservation Fund for trails planning based on the previously prepared statement of work. In additional discussion Ms. Grolljahn stated that she would abstain with an interest to find out more about what others are doing and Mr. Fulton mentioned that he would like to see less than \$20K spent on the project. Mr. Fulton called the motion; Misterys Najjar, Bolton, and Fulton voted in favor; and Ms. Grolljahn abstained. The **motion passed** 3-0-1.

7. Mr. Fulton noted that the commission received Glenn Dubois' 2015-2016 Wood Family Forest trapping report. No furbearers were taken on the town property, though there was some take on adjacent private property.
8. Mr. Najjar recommended the commission contact the Forest Society re. the commission's inability to monitor the Collins Ledge conservation easement.

Mr. Bolton **motioned** and Mr. Najjar seconded, all voted in favor, and meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Fulton (WCC Chair)