



Town of Weare
Conservation Commission

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Conservation Commission

Andrew Fulton, Chairman

Stephen Najjar, Vice Chair

Jeff Jackson

William Bolton

Lori Davis

Sherry Burdick

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES – MAY 9, 2018 MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairman Fulton

Members present: Andy Fulton, Steve Najjar, Bill Bolton, Lori Davis, and Sherry Burdick

Guests: none

Chairman Andy Fulton requested a summary of the events of the April meeting. Others mentioned what had gone on in his absence, with some emphasis on the proposed site changes at 24 Oil Mill Rd, Lot 412/202, Remillard. Fundamentally, there is substantial concern for groundwater quality, and appropriate engineering will be critical. Zoning incompatibilities, wildlife issues, and waters of regional significance should be addressed.

Mr. Fulton mentioned two pieces of mail received from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Noted without discussion were the following:

- April 6, 2018, Notice of Acceptance of Shoreland Permit Application, NHDES File No. 2018-00942, 30 Old Town Rd, Lot 110/119, and
- May 7, 2018, letter regarding 60-day extension of deadline for response to Request for More Information, Wetlands Bureau File #2018-00552, 24 Oil Mill Rd., Gary Remillard.

Mr. Fulton noted that the commission had received some old files from the establishment of Lake Horace Marsh as prime wetlands (1984). He indicated he would put them in the desk upstairs in the conservation room.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the possible assistance of the Town Administrator in commission agenda preparation.

Member Bill Bolton mentioned that town-owned properties of the former Wildwood development are being considered for auction and that there may be value in retention for conservation. Member Sherry Burdick suggested that a list was being compiled and that the commission should have opportunity to review before properties would be auctioned.

Commission members discussed the scope and direction of the trails planning initiative. Considerations included meeting with stakeholders such as the Board of Selectmen, Parks and Rec, and private concerns to elicit input and foster buy in. The discussion also touched on destination versus through travel trail characteristics, town management of Class VI roads, property damage in the Toby Hill area by ATV trail abuse, and scenic road preservation to limit travel when they're most susceptible to damage. Vice Chairman Steve Najjar stated that limiting access to Class VI roads would require re-designating them as trails, which would eliminate travel by pickups, something the

commission hasn't embraced. Mr. Bolton opined that he's most interested in trail connectivity, a system that allows one to go somewhere. He also mentioned that trail grants are out there and that multiuse proposals have better chance for funding. Mr. Najjar mentioned his interest in conservation land management, rather than straying into a discussion of recreation issues that go well beyond the purview of the commission. Member Lori Davis suggested that we not get too far into the weeds of trail issues; and that the noise of motorized vehicles on the trails can be quite disruptive. Mr. Fulton opined that a comprehensive trails vision for the town could encompass both development and/or designation of trail networks and development of short trails or loops that would allow ready access to specific areas of interest within our conservation properties.

Ms. Burdick inquired about items that would help her become more familiar with Weare's conservation framework; such as bylaws, guidebooks, and maps of conservation lands. Mr. Fulton said that he would order guidebooks from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and would get them to the new members. He mentioned that to-date, the commission has not chosen to publish paper maps and for some in town that might be quite valuable. Many others work almost exclusively in the digital realm where some of the commission's web pages include parcel maps, as does the Natural Resource Inventory, which is also available on the web page.

Ms. Burdick also inquired regarding how logging jobs are awarded. Mr. Najjar explained the commission's relationship with MTL and Jeremy Turner as our town forester, Forestry Service Agreements as contracts, and the ability to make Avenza pdf maps. He confirmed that forestry harvest jobs do go out to bid.

Mr. Najjar stated that he will not be in attendance at the June meeting and that we will have a quarterly town forester report at the July meeting.

Ms. Davis **motioned** and Mr. Najjar seconded, all voted in favor, and meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Fulton (WCC Chair)