

**Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the
Walpole Conservation Commission
July 11, 2022**

Members Present: Alicia Flammia, France Menk

Members Absent: John Peska, Peter Palmetto, Lewis Shelley, Laura Hayes, Steven Dumont,

Seating of Alternates: Kara Dexter

Alternates Absent: Samantha Loch, Gary Speed

Visitors Present: Peggy Pschirrer (Selectboard Liaison), Cheryl Mayberry (Selectboard Liaison), Jean Kobeski (Secretary), Will and Wendy Grossman

Call to Order: Alicia called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Peggy Pschirrer asked that, in the June 6 minutes, she and Cheryl Mayberry be recorded as present, and Kara noted that Samantha Loch was absent. With those corrections, Kara moved to accept the June 6 minutes. France seconded, and all voted to accept.

Public Business

Report from the Chair: Alicia reported that she represented the Walpole Conservation Commission at the Alstead Wetlands event on Saturday, July 9, sponsored by the Alstead Conservation Commission. She set up a table and displayed WCC maps. The Charlestown Conservation Commission also attended. She said it was an informative event, though attendance was light.

Alicia said Alex reported that Long View finished the invasive species work at the Hooper Forest in early July. The marking crew will come on Wednesday to mark the boundaries.

Correspondence: The WCC received a Notice to Cut Wood in North Walpole off Main Street and Route 12 behind Lentex. The work will be done for firewood over 110 acres. Kara asked if the WCC could ever say no to such work. Alicia answered they can't, but can review the paperwork and mediate, if necessary.

A Wetlands Permit by Notification was received from Boggy Meadow Farm for a gully they want to fill in to stop erosion.

Treasury Report:	Mason Expendable:	\$458,568.59
	Mason Non-Expendable:	\$19,495.96
	Conservation:	\$190,464.70
	Forestry:	\$28,260.96
	Walker Road:	\$2,142.12

New Business: Wendy and Will Grossman presented a \$1,000 bond request for a Special Use Permit for brush-hogging the Rail Trail. Wendy wrote a Terms of Agreement, which would accompany the \$1,000 check. It states that this Reimbursement Restoration Fee would cover additional damage to the Rail Trail by contractors brush-hogging for the town and would be reimbursed if none is incurred. It would also be returned at the end of the special use period if no brush-hogging has been done. The Town of Walpole will not be responsible for existing prob-

lems such as ruts and muddy areas. Deposit of the check is deemed to be an agreement with these terms. After discussion of several alternatives, the WCC decided that the document would be unsigned.

Peggy stated that she hoped someone would come and identify the damage that already exists to the trail because the types of damage to which the permit refers is not clearly defined. Wendy said that the State inspected the Rail Trail in Walpole last week, and they (Wendy and Will) had asked to be notified when an inspector came to look at the Rail Trail; this notification was not done. The only note received from the inspector was a request not to brush-hog the wet area north of the veterinary clinic. Wendy said that the State inspected the Rail Trail in Walpole last week, and they would find another way to clear that. Wendy and Will did a thorough inspection of the trail over the Fourth of July weekend and photographed the problem areas for future reference.

Alicia recommended, if approved, the \$1,000 be taken from the Conservation Savings Account since there is no line item for Rail Trail on the budget. France moved to approve the \$1,000 check for the Special Use Permit, to be taken from the Conservation account. Kara seconded the motion, and all voted to approve. Peggy told Wendy she could pick up the check from Rich Tuesday morning.

Wendy asked about mowing the upper field of the Gateway property. Alicia said the Commission may want to brush-hog down the road, but she would want more members to be part of that discussion. It could be done via email. Will asked how much extra land that would involve. Alicia said roughly an acre. Wendy said that would probably add more money to the stated cost of the work. Alicia said that a kick-off meeting with the contractor could be held to discuss this.

Old Business: The Commission received a contract from Long View to manage the invasives on the Walpole Gateway property. The cost is \$2,505. This is a few hundred dollars more than the Walker Road budget has. Alicia suggested taking the balance from the Conservation Savings Account. Kara moved to accept the contract and pay Long View \$2,505. France seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Kara referenced the May minutes, which stated they would get an estimate of what a full survey of the Gateway property would cost. Has that been done? In the December minutes, it was stated that a delineated turnaround area would be created with signage and the gate would be unlocked. Alicia said she is comfortable with the turnaround area that was located, which is not in a wetland area, so a survey isn't needed for that. Kara asked, why not start the process? Alicia said the area needs to be marked and signage put up. France offered to make the signs. Alicia would like more Commission members to be present to discuss this, so it has been tabled until the August meeting.

Other Business

Walpole Trails Subcommittee: No report tonight; meeting on Wednesday

Property Monitoring: To be discussed at the August meeting

Reservoir Road: No report tonight

Other: Kara asked if there is some type of manual or other information for new members of the Conservation Commission to support them as they become acquainted with the workings of the Commission. She found a NHACC handbook on line, which provided some guidance. Alicia

said that sometimes the NHACC provides training sessions, but for the most part, members do their own research on topics of interest and bring what they have learned to the table. France agreed, saying she learned by investigating items as they came up.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Monday, August 1, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Kobeski, Recording Secretary

** These minutes are in draft form until approved at the August 1, 2022 meeting.