

**Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the  
Walpole Conservation Commission  
Monday, June 5, 2023**

**Members Present:** Alicia Flammia, France Menk, Peter Palmiotto, Lew Shelley, Steven Dumont, Wendy Grossman, John Peska, Kara Dexter (Alternate), Lauren Halaquist (Intern), Peggy Pschirrer and Steve Dalessio (Select Board Liaisons)

**Visitors Present:** Nicole Adams

**Call to Order:** Alicia called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. This meeting was recorded.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Lew made an addition that before the part about the Rail Trail, he stepped out of the meeting. Wendy made a motion to approve as amended. Lew seconded, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

**New Business**

**Easement Monitoring:** Lauren Halaquist from Antioch University presented the work she has done on the Easement Monitoring program. She started in February. She has created Easement Monitoring Summaries in the Google Drive. Based on the information that was available, Wendy has questions about the Fanny Mason Forest and the ownership and whether or not there is an actual easement. Alicia stated that NH GRANIT information is reliant on towns putting in the correct information. If the information is incorrect, we can do the research and correct that information. Steven stated that the presentation should be focused on the work that Lauren has done, and not whether or not specific bits of information is correct. This can be reviewed and researched and corrected later. It was agreed that Lauren's glossary of terms should be updated to include more information. Lauren's forest summaries include acreage, maps, easement holders, resources and histories of the forest and easement, if applicable. There is also GPS data if it is available for the property. Steven will work on a sign up sheet for monitoring.

**Report from Chair:** no report.

**Treasury:**

Mason Expendable \$465,416.98 (as of April 30)

Mason Non-Expendable \$19,727.40

Conservation savings accounts will come later.

**Correspondences:**

Letter for dredge and fill permit for culverts on Rail Trail. Has been administratively complete.

Statement for Long View Forestry. Stumpage amount that went to Hooper was \$56,507.18.

## Old Business

**Prioritizing Future Projects:** Kara went through the rapid assessments on town forest and came up with a document that highlights specifics for each assessment. This includes forestry recommendations, boundary marking and invasive removal recommendations. The Fanny Mason Forest is the next priority. This was put on hold to focus on the Hooper Forest. Kara mentioned the mountain bike group would like to be involved in trail planning and building for the Fanny Mason Forest. Kara also noted that the Walpole Conservation Plan has not been updated in some time, since 2006. Peter noted that it is generally done every 15-20 years. Peter & Lew were involved in this, as well as a committee of other townspeople. This took about a year to complete. Lew noted that because the plan already exists, it will be easier to re-create. Easement monitoring is a priority. Steven noted that marking town boundaries is also a priority. Peter suggests we start planning for the Conservation Plan. The consensus was we get the monitoring and boundary marking completed, and then focus on the Conservation Plan, with the goal of 2024 or 2025 completion.

**Commission Liaison to Hooper:** no interest as of yet. We still have two open alternate positions on the Conservation Commission.

**Walpole Gateway Update:** waiting for Mark Houghton to get back to us on the status of the sure-pack. Lew has volunteered to do the work but it wouldn't be until late in the season. The gate will not be opened until the work is complete.

**Cheshire Rail Trail:** the special use permit for brush hogging is approved. The bond was required. The Selectboard signed the permit. The next step is for the brush hogging. Wendy is requesting \$450 for Mike Hubbard to complete the work. Mark can also mow the Walpole Gateway field for an additional \$200. Lew made a motion to approve \$650. John seconded. All in favor. Alicia will work with Rich to determine what account is best to draw from. Peter expressed disappointment that we are not using any of the fields for agricultural use as we had discussed before. Alicia noted that the Gowdy's were not interested because of weeds and quite a bit of work that needs to be completed. The consensus was that we get the turnaround completed and do further planning.

**RTP Grant:** The grant contract has been signed with the state. Wendy is awaiting the release of the funds. We had three bids come back. Lew Shelley has been selected as the contractor. Lew has agreed to do the base work as well as all the extra options for the \$25,000 amount. With respect to the Great Brook culvert repair, Wendy spoke with Chuck Corliss from the NH DOT. Chuck stated that the new culvert will not change the existing water flow or migration of wildlife. Wendy asked Chuck to keep her informed of the timeline so she can coordinate the work with the Rail Trail work as well as keeping the public informed.

## **Other Business**

***Monadnock Conservancy:*** Wendy completed a walk with the Conservancy monitoring 4 town properties in Walpole and gave highlights on each of the properties.

***Walpole Trail Committee:*** Steven stated that we need money for new printed trail maps. We have \$300 for available. Lew made a motion to approve up to \$300. John seconded. All in favor. Steven also noted we need a new bridge at the Fanny Mason Forest Trail. Lew will look at the wood he has available. Lew has to organize a meeting with Rob for bike trails. Alicia suggests we coordinate with Helen from the Hooper Institute.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM

**The next meeting will be on Monday, July 10, 2023.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steven Dumont

\*\* These minutes are in draft form until approved at the July 10, 2023 meeting.