

**Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the
Walpole Conservation Commission
August 3, 2020**

Members Present: Alicia Flammia, Jackie Kensen, Lew Shelley, Laura Hayes, France Menk, Cheryl Mayberry, Selectboard Representative, Jean Kobeski, Recording Secretary

Members Absent: John Peski, Steven Dumont

Alternates Present: Gary Speed

Visitor: Kara Dexter

Call to Order: Alicia called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. on the Walpole Town Common

Review and Approval of Minutes: Lew moved; France seconded, and all approved acceptance of the July 6, 2020 minutes.

Correspondence: Alicia received a letter informing the WCC about the intent to cut wood on the Fletcher property. The letter was signed by the selectboard.

Treasury: Forestry Account - \$31,072.04
Conservation Account - \$142,702.89
Walker Road Account - \$3,362.71
Fanny Mason Non-expendable - \$17,089.85
Fanny Mason Expendable - \$414,075.38

New Business: Alicia referenced Steven's email, which prioritized the town forests for boundary marking and shared his notes on each. Jackie, France, Alicia, Lew, and Steven have volunteered to do the marking. Alicia will ask Steven to do a doodle pool via email in October/November to set a schedule. Jackie warned that would be hunting season.

Alicia asked if the WCC should contact Alex for advice; it was decided that the group should check Steven's information on property boundaries before contacting Alex. Laura stated she has the shape boundaries that she could put in the Avenza app on her phone, which will help when walking the property lines.

Alicia suggested that, for invasive control, the group create management strategies for specific properties. Laura knows about the soils and suggested looking at each property's unique ecological features. Because this was going to be done in conjunction with timber harvesting, it could be tabled for the time being, since the harvesting has been postponed. Lew stated that invasive control is done at particular times of the year, depending on the invasive, and July and August are good times for this work.

Alicia suggested tabling the discussion and revisiting it in 6 months.

Old Business: Alicia said she cannot find the file on Cranberry Meadow but found the Hooper file, which briefly mentions Cranberry Meadow. Gary said there are detailed drawings of the property somewhere. The WCC wants to know how low the water level in Cranberry Pond can go and still be effective ecologically. Perhaps they should do a natural resource inventory to determine necessary water levels.

Alicia plans to talk to Mark Houghton tomorrow about the Hooper Pond, since it is the fire pond. Gary said the fire pond is very low right now.

Alicia referenced John's report via email on the Reservoir Dam progress. The ruts (some 3' deep) have been filled and the clearing of the vegetation was completed. Next step is the DES permit process to be completed by Fuss and O'Neill to the state for culvert repair.

Other Business: Gary reported a large tree down across the Mill Pond Trail. He also said the stairs at the Mason rest area are falling apart.

Gary referenced the LaRoche property building permit for a bridge across Mad Brook. He said this bridge will need concrete abutments so that fire and construction equipment can safely cross the bridge, so he would like to know what the plans entail. Jackie offered to approach the LaRoches to ask and Gary offered to go with her.

On the ATV issue, Lew reported that John Delisle of Fish and Game has been giving out notices.

Cheryl reported that the area across from Aubuchon has been blocked off with a chain; there was a great deal of police action there last weekend. Access to the river will be on foot. Kara Dexter said she has pulled 900 pounds of trash from the area, and the work is not complete. It will be difficult to do on foot. Is there any way to gain access with a vehicle? Cheryl said she would go back to the selectboard for access information.

There was a discussion about the ATV use of class 6 roads, if used correctly. Lew said Fish and Game gave him signs that would clearly mark which roads could be used and which would be closed. A list of roads could be given to the selectboard for approval, but it would ultimately need to be a town vote.

Adjournment: France moved; Laura seconded, and all voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:20.

Please note: Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting will be on September 14th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Kobeski, Recording Secretary

*** These minutes are in draft form until approved by the Commission in September.