

**Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the
Walpole Conservation Commission
March 6, 2023**

Members Present: Alicia Flammia, John Peska, Peter Palmiotto, Steven Dumont,
Lauren Halaquist (Intern)

Members Absent: France Menk, Lew Shelley, Laura Hayes

Seating of Alternates: Kara Dexter, Wendy Grossman

Visitors Present: Jean Kobeski (Recording Secretary)

Call to Order: Alicia called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. This meeting was recorded.

Review and Approval of February Minutes: Steven noted the misspelling of the address of the new WCC website. It should read: walpoleoutdoors.org. With that correction, Steven made a motion to accept the February minutes; Wendy seconded, and all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Public Business

Treasury:

Conservation:	\$191,667.80
Forestry:	\$23,781.03
Walker Road:	\$2, 011.65

Correspondences: Alicia shared an invitation from the Connecticut River Conservancy to meet your river stewards at a Meet and Greet on April 4 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Waypoint Visitors Center, 17 Depot Street, Bellows Falls. For more information: ctriver.org/events

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation sent the Commission a check for \$9,618.66 from the Hubbard Conservation Fund. Alicia will pass it to Rich for deposit. Kara asked in which account it would be deposited. Alicia said it goes into the General Conservation Fund.

The Commission received a packet from the Planning Board along with a letter explaining they are updating the Natural Resources section of the Master Plan with the SW Regional Planning Commission and would appreciate input from the Commission. The packet included draft maps and verbiage. The workshop would be at the end of the month. Alicia emailed Jeff Miller for the workshop date; he will get back to her with that. Peter and Wendy expressed interest in attending.

Wendy asked if the Commission has plans to update the Conservation Plan (written in 2006). Alicia answered they do not, but because it should be done every ten years, it's time for the update.

New Business

NH State Parks Grant: John reported that one million dollars in grant money was distributed last year and it is now time for organizations interested in receiving money this year to file an intent to apply. John said he immediately thought of the Rail Trail Project, and Wendy said stated she would be interested in applying. John will forward the information, including deadline, to Wendy.

Old Business

Hooper Forest: Alicia received the first written report of the Hooper Forest Project and said in terms of revenue they are on track for the estimate of around \$54,000. She emailed Alex's report to the commissioners. Anyone who has not received it should let her know.

Other Business

Walpole Trails Subcommittee: The committee will meet Wednesday. Kara and Wendy have begun planning the All Trails Day and want input from committee members. Wendy said that, in the next month Rail Trail activity will ramp up. She wants to get information on the RTP grant so she can start working on brush hogging permits. She would like to have that complete so that work could be done in June.

Steven reported he has reached out to Kelli for login training dates. Wendy said there are now Rail Trail links on the website, as well as a link to High Blue.

Property Monitoring: Lauren reported she has been working on Ballam Farm and Fanny Mason Forest. She is writing summaries then will transfer information to the monitoring form. She has placed files on the Commission's Google Drive.

Peggy entered the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Peter asked that, when Lauren is writing summaries, she include where the information came from and any recommendations or unanswered questions she may have.

Lauren stated she is struggling with some of the terminology. She is working on a glossary and said it is about 80% complete. Peter and Alicia reminded her to contact them with any questions she may have. Lauren said she would send a draft of the glossary to commissioners.

Reservoir Dam: John said the grant was approved and as soon as the town receives official notification from Concord, the project can begin.

Other

Conservation Scholar: Savannah Anderson was selected to receive the scholarship. John moved that the Commission approve the \$600 fee. Kara seconded and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Wendy announced the Saving Special Places conferences held by the UNH Extension. This annual land conservation conference will be held in late March to mid-April with a virtual or in-person option. The cost is \$65. Alicia told Wendy the Commission has money for reimbursement. More information: extension.unh.edu

Commission Alternate: Alicia announced there is an opening for an alternate on the Walpole Conservation Commission.

Future Projects: Wendy asked how the Commission determines which project to take on next. Alicia said commissioners decide by recommendations from the action plans of the Town Forester. They also do projects that the group knows need to be done and they determine order of importance. They will also be able to use Lauren's recommendations and a Conservation Plan update. Kara said she put future plans in the Town Report, based on past action plans.

Steven suggested brainstorming and prioritizing a list of future projects. Peter stated updating the Conservation Plan will consume a great deal of time, about a year. But an online survey of

the town could lead to attitudes about wetlands and set-backs. Kara offered to go through minutes from the last year to see if there were any proposed projects that have not been completed.

With no further business to discuss tonight, Kara moved to adjourn; Steven seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 3, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Kobeski, Recording Secretary

** These minutes are in draft form until approved at the April 3, 2023 meeting.