

**TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

240 Middle Road
Center Tuftonboro, NH 03816

**MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2021**

Present: Chairman Stephen Scapicchio, Vice Chairman Steven Wingate, Larry Gil, Kate Nesbit, Michael Phelps. *Guest:* Joan Scapicchio. *Public:* William Ela. *Staff:* Jane Lemire
Absent: Heather Brown, Mark Howard, Selectmen's Rep Guy Pike, Laurel Podsen, Lynne Walsh

Call to Order: Chairman Scapicchio called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. August 16, 2021

A motion to accept the Minutes of 8/16/21 as presented was made by Mr. Phelps and seconded by Vice Chairman Wingate. Motion passed unanimous.

II. Discussion Items

A. IRS Conservation Deductions

Joan Scapicchio, EA was invited to the meeting to explain tax regulations when acquiring a conservation easement. Ms. Scapicchio went over regulations and answered questions from the group. She pointed out that for a tax contribution the easement or land must be one of the following: 1) for outdoor recreation, 2) preserve natural habitat, 3) preserve open space and/or 4) historic benefit. An appraisal for fair market value is also needed for a tax contribution of 50% of adjusted gross income per year and the balance carried forward.

PUBLIC INPUT: William Ela asked the commission the status of the Lyon's lot. Chairman Scapicchio and Vice Chairman Wingate responded that they are unsure and are unable to discuss details. Mr. Ela mentioned the overgrowth of trees creating a natural obstruction to views on this lot and would like to see if an easement could be considered.

II. Discussion Items (continued)

B. TCC Budget Review

Ms. Nesbit reviewed the most recent budget along with the group. There was discussion of moving funds from line item 01-4612-09-330 (Acquisitions & Monitoring) to proceed with trails at Great Meadow for Phase II. It was determined that the funds in Acquisitions & Mergers would not be used this year, therefore allowing for the transfer.

C. Other Board Updates

a. ZBA

No report.

b. Planning Board

Ms. Nesbit reported that all three Verizon cell towers were approved. She believed the first tower would be on Eaglemere Road starting this fall. She made mention that the tower located at the park by the fire station would require the trail head to be relocated.

c. Land Bank

Vice Chairman Wingate reported that the Land Bank is updating their website. Also, they are seeking additional volunteers.

d. Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG)

Chairman Scapicchio and Vice Chair Wingate attended the MMRG annual meeting. MMRG merged with Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust bringing their scope to 4,000 acres, 500 members and 9 communities. This merger is also prompting the development of a new mission statement and vision.

D. Great Meadow Trail Fund Raising

Chairman Scapicchio and group discussed fund raising ideas for the next phase of construction which includes a viewing platform. \$1,000 remains available from the Tuftonboro Association.

E. Upcoming Events

Chairman Scapicchio reported the following upcoming events for any member interested:

- 9/22/21 – Historical Society Visit at Cheney Farm at 11:00 am
- 9/23/21 – Tuftonboro Association Annual Meeting at 7pm at the library
- 9/24/21 – Carroll County Conservation District, Legislative Tour in Conway

III. Status of Dredge & Fill Applications

The most recent applications and status of others was reported.

IV. Correspondence

- Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests letter dated 8/24/21 regarding their plan to conduct a timber harvest on their Sidney Butler Smith Woodland property.

V. Old Business

A. Nineteen Mile Brook Monitoring

Mr. Gil reported he attended the brook monitoring on 9/16/21 while FB Environmental was onsite for samples and flow monitoring. Mr. Gil met two new FBE reps who were onsite -- Elliot Boardman and Luke Frankel, field biologist who replaced Christine Bunyon. Also onsite was John Dold who is the onsite engineer for the Town of Wolfeboro. Mr. Dold stated construction activities have largely been completed and the operation of the Rapid Infiltration operations were anticipated to begin within the next few weeks.

B. Great Meadow

a. Trail Progress

Chairman Scapicchio reported that the eight boardwalks and one bridge is complete. The second bridge is in production and once finished will complete Phase I of the project.

b. Lyon's Lot

No new updates.

C. Whortleberry Island Update

Chairman Scapicchio and Vice Chairman Wingate spoke with a resident of Whortleberry Island who inquired about donating a lot(s) to the town that they wish not to be developed. Each lot is approximately 2 acres. The resident is going to speak with the other owners of these lots and will get back to the commission.

D. Grant Update

Chairman Scapicchio reported that the Melvin River grant was not selected. The Moose Plate grant deadline is 9/15/21 and the 319 grant deadline is 9/17/21.

VI. New Business

A. Mirror Lake Protective Association (MLPA) – Water Quality Committee

Vice Chairman Scapicchio stated MLPA has a meeting next Tuesday with Don Kretchmer for suggestions on what can be done regarding the high bacteria level of the lake. MLPA is putting a water quality committee together due to the recent bacteria outbreak. The commission discussed this issue.

B. Other

Vice Chairman Wingate reported:

- NH Fish & Game are encouraging the collection of milkweed pods for spring planting.
- National Parks Trust is offering a \$5,000 grant entitled “Every Kid Outdoors” with a 10/6/21 online deadline.
- NHACC is offering a remote session on 10/6/21 entitled “Jumping on the Bandwagon” regarding recruiting conservation commission members.
- NHACC is offering a remote session on 10/20/21 entitled “Assessing Pesticide Hazards and Risks”.
- NHACC’s annual meeting will be via Zoom on Saturday, 11/6/21.

VII. Non-Public Session

None.

Adjourn: There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Nesbit and seconded by Vice Chairman Wingate. A roll call vote followed; motion passed unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Lemire, Tuftonboro Conservation Commission Secretary
September 22, 2021*