

TOWN OF TUFTONBORO CONSERVATION COMMISSION

240 Middle Route, Center Tuftonboro, NH 03816

MEETING MINUTES

12/20/2021

Present: Chairman Steve Scapicchio, Vice Chairman Steve Wingate, Larry Gil, Kate Nesbit, Michael Phelps, Laurel Podsen, Lynne Walsh. **Not Present:** Heather Brown, Mark Howard, Guy Pike

Call to Order

Chairman Steve Scapicchio called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. November 15, 2021

A motion to accept the Minutes of 11/15/21 as presented was made by Vice Chairman Wingate and seconded by Lynne Walsh. Motion passed unanimous.

II. Melvin River Woody Addition Project

A. Rick Van de Poll, Ph.D.

Dr. Van de Poll, Research Director at Tin Mountain Conservation Center joined the group to discuss the Melvin River Woody Addition Project. He explained the environmental benefits (water quality, fish habitat, reduced flooding) by adding logs into streams. What was once a natural process has been changed due to laws prohibiting loggers from leaving woody biomass in streams or on floodplains within 50 feet of perennial streams, as one reason. Melvin River appears to be a treatable stream to re-engage to its natural condition. A pretreatment assessment will be done next year. Funding is primarily from NE Forest and Rivers Fund. Approval is needed from all property owners before any work could be done. To date four landowners have yet to respond. Dr. Van de Poll answered questions from the group and had discussions. A handout on the subject was provided to all.

III. Discussion Items

A. Update from other Boards/Committees

- Vice Chairman Steve Wingate discussed the Land Bank's efforts to purchase property in Wolfeboro where there are plans for a condominium build.
- Ms. Nesbit stated the Planning Board's last discussion was regarding the Master Plan. She addressed that there was a very old and out-of-date table graph listing Tuftonboro easements. Ms. Nesbit passed out a new format she worked on where she added a column for Tax Map/Lot so property can be located. She pointed out that different organizations call the same property different names. She asked the commission their thoughts on this new format/chart prior to it being submitted to Gary Qua. Some updates to the some of the easements were discussed and will be checked. Overall, the group thought it was an improvement.

B. Easement Monitoring with LRCT

Chairman Scapicchio reported he did the easement monitoring a few weeks ago.

C. Budget Update

Chairman Scapicchio reported other than purchasing needed materials to continue with the Great Meadow project in the spring, there were no other changes to the 2021 budget. He also stated that the 2022 budget will have a line item for the Great Meadow project, as the BOS suggested.

IV. Status of Dredge & Fill Applications

The status of permit applications was reported by Jane Lemire.

V. Correspondence

The newsletter of 12/05/21 from Wave Action was shared with commission members.

VI. Old Business

A. Nineteen Mile Brook Monitoring

Mr. Gil reported that monitoring is done for the year. He stated he had been collecting recordings from the gage on Route 109A since 2017 and has a spreadsheet of 100 different recordings which he sent to FB Environmental for their report.

B. Great Meadow

a. Trail Progress

Chairman Scapicchio reported that the volunteers have finished as much as they could on the trail for this year. They will continue in late winter/spring 2022 with phase two started. Some of the building materials that will be needed in 2022 were purchased.

b. Parking Lot

Chairman Scapicchio reported that the Town is plowing the parking lot at the Great Meadow trail for winter accessibility. The trail is ideal for snowshoeing or cross-country skiing.

C. Forest Plans

Vice Chairman Wingate has received a draft Forest plan for the Gould lot. He will be making comments and sending back for revision.

D. Lawall Easement

Ms. Nesbit reported that the landowner had sent back the legal paperwork for a few minor wording changes. Once the document is updated, it should proceed.

VII. New Business

- Chairman Scapicchio mentioned that he met a volunteer geologist from the State of New Hampshire who told him that the state is redoing all soil surveys and that he is charged with doing the Town of Tuftonboro and Melvin Village. He sent Chairman Scapicchio a pdf file of what has been done to date. Chairman Scapicchio asked the group if they have interest, he will invite the geologist to attend the commission's next meeting in January. The group responded positively for a presentation from him.
- Chairman Scapicchio stated that Heather Brown received a request through TCC's Facebook page from a person who wants to put their own personal trail camera at Great Meadow. Although this person saw that TCC has two cameras there already, their interest is in mammals (such as muskrats, otters and beavers) and they would like to place a camera in a particular area. The group discussed this and made mention that TCC deletes all pedestrians from their cameras and that practice should be followed. Chairman Scapicchio will pass this question along to the Selectmen for their thoughts and to make a decision.

VIII. Non-Public Session

Motion to enter non-public session made by Chairman Scapicchio; seconded by Ms. Nesbit. Per RSA 91-A:3, II(d)

Roll call vote to enter nonpublic session:

Chairman Scapicchio	-	Aye
Vice Chairman Wingate	-	Aye
Larry Gil	-	Aye
Kate Nesbit	-	Aye
Michael Phelps	-	Aye
Laurel Podsen	-	Aye
Lynne Walsh	-	Aye

Motion passed.

Entered non-public session at 8:10 p.m.

Motion to leave non-public session and return to public session by Mr. Gil; seconded by Ms. Walsh. Motion passed.

Public session reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

Motion to seal minutes made by Ms. Nesbit; seconded by Vice Chairman Wingate.

Roll call vote to seal minutes:

Chairman Scapicchio	-	Aye
Vice Chairman Wingate	-	Aye
Larry Gil	-	Aye
Kate Nesbit	-	Aye
Michael Phelps	-	Aye
Laurel Podsen	-	Aye
Lynne Walsh	-	Aye

Motion passed.

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Nesbit and seconded by Ms. Walsh. Motion passed unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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