

TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2022

Present: Vice Chairman Steven Wingate, Larry Gil, Mark Howard, Selectman Guy Pike, Lynne Walsh. Staff: Jane Lemire.

Absent: Chairman Stephen Scapicchio, Heather Brown, Kate Nesbit, Michael Phelps, Laurel Podsen.

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

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. August 15, 2022

A motion to accept the Minutes of August 15, 2022 as presented was made by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Selectman Pike. All in favor; motion passed unanimous.

II. Discussion Items

A. Budget Update

Vice Chairman Wingate reviewed the budget with the group. The budget remains stable and in good shape.

B. Other

Vice Chairman Wingate asked the group to consider an unplanned expense under the water monitoring category to purchase two water monitoring kits at \$1,000.00 each. Recently we have been successful in recruiting new volunteers to cover locations that were not being monitored. Tuftonboro samplers are currently sharing equipment. This creates a lot of inefficiency and scheduling problems for the volunteers. Vice Chairman Wingate also said that we are not sure about the availability of one item in the sampling kits. If we cannot find the cline finders currently being used, a substitute may raise the cost. He also stated that the kits would be owned by Tuftonboro and not used anywhere else.

A motion to budget a purchase of two water monitoring kits was made by Vice Chairman Wingate and seconded by Mr. Gil. All in favor, motion passed unanimous.

Vice Chairman Wingate also stated that there are still unmonitored sites and volunteer recruiting is ongoing.

III. Status of Dredge & Fill Applications

The status of permit applications was reported by Jane Lemire.

IV. Correspondence

Vice Chairman stated correspondence was received from LCHIP regarding annual easement inspections.

V. Old Business

A. Nineteen Mile Brook Monitoring

Mr. Gil reported that he attended a water monitoring collection with Lou Frankel from FB Environmental on September 13th. Noted was an unusually high conductivity reading and a low dissolved oxygen level at NMB04 located near the Route 109A culvert. At Station NMB21, the conductivity was lower and noted considerable evidence of previous high flows having seriously undermined the banking on both sides of the brook. Water levels were low.

Mr. Gil stated later that day he and Mr. Frankel attended an onsite meeting scheduled by Dave Ford, Wolfeboro Public Works Director to see the effects of a large beaver dam on the wetland restoration program and RIB operations. Lenore Clark, Chair of the Wolfeboro Conservation Commission was in attendance as well as others. Mr. Gil handed out a map to the commission members showing the location. Mr. Gil stated this beaver dam had been reported in April of 2022. By August, it was clear to the Wolfeboro leadership that the beaver dam had caused extensive flooding which necessitated the onsite meeting to alert all parties that a public decision has to be made as to what should be done to alleviate the flooding and the potential for additional damage to the RIB's operations. Those at the meeting discussed steps to address the problem. A rough estimate is needed quickly as to the size and volume of water behind the dam, to provide a sense of the potential threat should the dam fail. Once this information is received the Wolfeboro Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting. Mr. Gil suggested TCC members go look at the site.

Vice Chairman Wingate proposed a letter of support in moving the beavers from the RIB area of Nineteen Mile Brook be sent to the Town of Wolfeboro.

A motion to send a letter-of-support in moving the beavers from the RIB area be sent to the Wolfeboro Conservation Commission was made by Vice Chairman Wingate and seconded by Mr. Gil. All in favor, motion passed unanimous.

Vice Chairman Wingate will write the letter after contacting Dave Ford by email. Vice Chairman Wingate will draft a letter and send to TCC members and once reviewed will have the TCC secretary mail the letter.

B. Great Meadow Trail Progress

Vice Chairman Wingate reported that four concrete blocks were recently put in place last week. He does not expect a lot of progress this week as two volunteers are unavailable; however, on Friday, 9/23 there may be two volunteers to help with the continuing work.

Mr. Howard suggested on behalf of the Tuftonboro Association that TCC spend the \$2,200.00 set aside as they are looking to close that account. Vice Chairman Wingate asked if the Tuftonboro Association would be willing to hold on to the funds for now as it can be used as a cushion when needed. Vice Chairman stated another 18'-20' of boardwalk will be needed to get to the stairs that will be installed going to the platform, and perhaps this money can purchase the lumber needed. Mr. Howard will speak with that committee about holding on to the funds in the meantime.

C. Forest Plans

Vice Chairman Wingate reported that the forester has agreed to provide an estimate for the cost of timber improvement on the Sargent lot. This land was mostly cut to the ground when TCC acquired the 150-acres but now has a lot of new trees coming up. Improvements can begin over the next three years by encouraging some tree species while discouraging others. TCC will put this in the budget for selectmen approval.

D. Water Testing

Ms. Podsen will report on this at the October meeting. Vice Chairman Wingate noted that the email reminder to return the water test proved successful with most kits taken being returned.

E. Old Home Days

Ms. Podsen will report on this at the October meeting. Vice Chairman Wingate noted that participation was down a bit for the scavenger hunt. How to advertise this event in the future should be discussed.

VI. New Business

A. NHACC Annual Meeting

Vice Chairman Wingate stated he attends the NHACC Annual Meeting each year and encouraged the group to attend. There are several topics, such as "*How to use media to sell conservation*" amongst others. From 12 noon – 1:00 p.m. there is a "Lunch and Learn" series that can be attended through Zoom and will also be recorded for viewing at a convenient time.

VII. Non-Public Session – None.

Adjourn: There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Howard and seconded by Selectman Pike. Motion passed unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Lemire, Tuftonboro Conservation Commission Secretary
September 21, 2022*