

TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2023

Present: Chairman Stephen Scapicchio, Vice Chairman Steven Wingate. Members: Larry Gil, Kate Nesbit, Selectman Guy Pike, Laurel Podsen, Lynne Walsh. Staff: Jane Lemire.
Absent: Heather Brown, Mark Howard, Michael Phelps.

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

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. December 19, 2022

A motion to accept the Minutes of November 21, 2022 as presented was made by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Podsen. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

II. Discussion Items

A. Veronica Bodge – MMRG

Veronica Bodge of MMRG attended to discuss both Great Meadow and the upcoming conservation mixer. She stated she sent a copy of the conservation easement deed to Chairman Scapicchio and asked if he had any questions. He responded that he forwarded the document to TCC's attorney and that he did not have any questions. Ms. Bodge stated they too forwarded the document to their attorney. Ms. Bodge reviewed the closing timeline stating that funding from L-Chip and ARM has been awarded and will fully fund the project (L-CHIP has been received and the ARM award is upcoming with date to be determined, expecting it may be this month); hope to submit the conservation easement deed as well as title work for the property to L-CHIP for their final review at the beginning of March; final documentation where all involved do a review and have it ready to go by June with a closing scheduled for August.

Ms. Bodge asked Chairman Scapicchio if he had time to go over the ~~MLU~~ **MoU (Memorandum of Understanding)** and sign it. Chairman Scapicchio stated he did not. Ms. Bodge explained she would like to have everyone sign it to clarify what was agreed to and that the Landbank is being paid back ahead of time.

Ms. Bodge reminded the group of the upcoming conservation mixer on February 4, 2023 from 1:00pm-3:00pm. It is being held at the Old Town Hall, 200 Kings Highway, Middleton. Chairman Scapicchio and Vice Chairman Wingate will be

giving a PowerPoint presentation on the Great Meadow. Ms. Bodge asked who from the group planned on attending to which Chairman Scapicchio, Vice Chairman Wingate, Ms. Walsh, Mr. Gil and Ms. Nesbit responded they would attend.

B. Budget Update

Chairman Scapicchio reported Cathy Pounder told him \$1,850.00 had been received from property coming out of current use. TCC will receive \$925.00 of that for deposit to the Conservation Fund. At the next meeting Chairman Scapicchio will confirm the balance of that account (which he estimates to be about \$16,000.00).

III. Status of Dredge & Fill Applications

The status of four (4) permit applications was reported by Jane Lemire.

IV. Correspondence

- Thank you note received from MLPA for TCC membership contribution.
- NHDES reclassified Copps Pond Dam from a significant hazard to a high hazard.

V. Old Business

A. Nineteen Mile Brook

Mr. Gil spoke with Luke Frankel who stated they have all information in except the water chemistry which they should receive by the end of this month or beginning of next month.

B. Great Meadow Trail

Nothing new to report.

VI. New Business

A. MMRG Conservation Mixer – 2/4/2023, 1-3pm

Chairman Scapicchio reminded the group of this event.

B. New Resident Pamphlet Review Update

Ms. Walsh presented the most recent draft version of the pamphlet. It now includes TCC's mission statement, as well as information and pictures of the Great Meadow. Chairman Scapicchio thanked Ms. Walsh for a great job. The group agreed that the pamphlet looks great and is ready to print. Ms. Walsh asked secretary Ms. Lemire to inquire with the town office if there is a database of new home owners so these pamphlets can be mailed directly. Also, they will be available at the information table at town hall.

C. Great Meadow Conservation Plan

Chairman Scapicchio invited Tuftonboro resident Brian Hastings to the meeting. Brian owns the lot next to the Horner lot on Old Woods Road.

Chairman Scapicchio shared a copy of the Great Meadow Conservation map with the group which outlined the layout of parcels of land that TCC is interested in conserving. He stated that the buyer who proposed to purchase the 80-acre Horner lot (and put into conservation) has rescinded. The sellers reached out to TCC again asking what they can do to help get this land into conservation.

Chairman Scapicchio spoke with Rick Van de Poll. They discussed this as well as the abutting lots to the Horner property; the 22-acre Brown lot, which the Melvin River runs through, and the 53-acre Hersey lot.

Chairman Scapicchio suggested and asked the commission if TCC's intention and primary focus can be to move forward and expand the Great Meadow and in doing so, protect the Melvin River. Rick Van de Poll agrees this is a good area of focus. LRCT also wants to help TCC with this mission.

Motion to move forward to expand the Great Meadow and protect the Melvin River as the Conservation Commission's primary focus over the next few years was made by Mr. Gil; seconded by Selectman Pike. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

VII. **Non-Public Session**

None.

Adjourn: There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Selectman Pike and seconded by Ms. Nesbit. Motion passed unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Lemire, Tuftonboro Conservation Commission Secretary
January 19, 2023*