

**TOWN OF TUFTONBORO**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 20, 2023**

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

**Call to Order**: Chairman Scapicchio called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

I. **Consideration of Minutes**

A. February 21, 2023

A motion to accept the Minutes of February 21, 2023 with one correction to *II. B. Saving Special Places* [first sentence, to begin with **Vice Chairman Wingate** (versus Chairman Scapicchio)] was made by Vice Chairman Wingate and seconded by Ms. Walsh. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

II. **Discussion Items**

A. Great Meadow Trail Dedication Event

Vice Chairman Wingate spoke of the history of Great Meadow trail which began back in 2010 and discussed holding a dedication event at Great Meadow. The commission discussed ideas and decided to hold an event on June 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (with a rain date of June 24<sup>th</sup>). Those who helped in prior years with the trail will be invited, such as former and current board of selectmen, Tuftonboro Association, Land Bank, trail volunteers, and LRCT who began interest and public support for the project. Multiple tour groups can be split by category, i.e., plants, forestry, history, etc. and led by commission members as well as other volunteers. A group photo will be taken by the kiosk to kick-off the day. To help with wet areas on the trail, Vice Chairman Wingate suggested attendees can each carry a bag of wood chips to the viewing platform. Ms. Walsh will send invites via email. Vice Chairman Wingate will publish notices in the Granite State News and Tuftonboro Times. Chairman Scapicchio will bring water and trail mix bags for all attendees.

B. MMRG Trail Tour

Chairman Scapicchio and Vice Chairman Wingate attended the conservation mixer. In response to their Great Meadow presentation, many attendees conveyed interest in seeing/walking the Great Meadow trail and asked if TCC

would host a tour. TCC will hold this tour on Friday, May 12, 2023 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. If anyone would like to bring a lunch prior to the tour, they can meet at noon time. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet other conservation commission members from surrounding areas.

### III. **Status of Dredge & Fill Applications**

The status of permit applications was reported by Jane Lemire.

### IV. **Correspondence**

- MMRG thank you letter for TCC \$1,000 contribution;
- LRCT voluntary questionnaire for monitor visit preferences.

### V. **Old Business**

#### A. Nineteen Mile Brook Monitoring

Mr. Gil stated he was in receipt of the FB Environmental (FBE) report of the two sets of samplings done in 2021 and 2022. There were selective dates during these two years where co-sampling took place along between FBE and Woodard & Curran (W&C). Split sampling is where the water is pulled and tested by two labs. FBE uses the labs at UNH and W&C uses Eastern Analytical. In 2021, some results matched well; others did not, particularly the nitrogen series. Mr. Gil discussed there are different methodologies and different levels of detection between the labs, so the results were inconsistent; making it difficult to match what the two testing labs presented. Due to those results, a second testing was done with still yet different numbers. Mr. Gil stated that Wolfboro makes its determination by what the state requirements are and nothing more. The state has different permit requirements based on if it is ground water, fresh water, surface water, wastewater, etc. resulting in many moving parts and many different tests.

Mr. Gil's objective is to compare data collected from 2007 to today. As much of a match is needed to determine the biggest data spread possible **impacting to have a sense of whether the discharge coming from RIBs is impacting** Nineteen Mile Brook. Mr. Gil went over the report/results (previously emailed to the group) (see attached) extensively. ~~Mr. Gil believes that the numbers from the UNH lab are more accurate.~~

Mr. Gil stated that Whitten Pond is the last pond before discharging into Nineteen Mile Brook on 109A. The owner of that land mass, on the opposite shore, decided to clear it thus creating tons of sediment that has come down to Whitten Pond, trapping and holding decay. This must be looked at.

The information TCC receives from FBE has very little analysis. FBE wants to continue and do next year's study and present a report. Mr. Gil wants to know what they are seeing so TCC can gauge whether they can look at things differently.

FBE may hesitate at this, as they have a contract with a scope of work, and this would be asking for something different and likely costing more money.

Chairman Scapicchio asked the group to give this topic some thought to further discuss at the next meeting.

B. Great Meadow Trail

Chairman Scapicchio visited the trail last week and stated other than some areas with higher water levels (beavers back?) there is nothing new.

C. Abenaki Tower

Vice Chairman Wingate stated that there will be a volunteer day to work on the tower at Abenaki Tower on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Earth Day if anyone would like to help. Wolfeboro Rotary and Kingswood Youth will be attending. Chairman Scapicchio noted that April 22<sup>nd</sup> is also the Tuftonboro town-wide clean-up day.

D. Maintenance Work Plans

Chairman Scapicchio stated that four town trails will be included in an after-winter cleanup to clear the trails of debris. This Spring Volunteer Day will be held on May 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. and will become an annual event. Vice Chairman Wingate will publish an article regarding this in the Tuftonboro Times.

E. Environmental Review and

F. Lyon's Lot

Regarding the grant from Green Mountain Conservation, Vice Chairman Wingate stated that they would like TCC to go with them to walk the area to be sure nothing has been missed.

**VI. New Business**

Solar Panels

Selectman Pike mentioned that since he has been selectman, he has not heard any discussion regarding possible solar ray installation at the landfill. Eventually it may become likely that the town may vote to put solar rays at the landfill. If this happens, DES will have to change the permit the town currently has. He is unsure how DES will handle this and the seepage that is there. Chairman Scapicchio stated approximately three years ago TCC spent time seeking out companies to evaluate the area and brought these recommendations to the selectman who thanked TCC but stated they had a company already chosen. Selectman Pike stated at Town meeting it was approved to fund this for studies, engineering, and permitting.

Website Update

Ms. Walsh asked about updating the town website. The group discussed and agreed that it needs to be updated, re-written and redesigned. Selectman Pike will speak to

the other selectmen regarding this and suggested a search for a town resident who may provide this service to the town pro bono.

#### Shoreline Protection Act

Ms. Nesbit stated that Gary Qua, Chair of the Planning Board, would like to meet with TCC to discuss adopting a portion of the Shoreline Protection Act. He is seeking input from TCC as to what is most important and what would be feasible to do within the next year. Ms. Nesbit asked the group to think about this in anticipation of meeting with Mr. Qua in the next month or so.

#### NHACC Programs

Chairman Scapicchio shared with the group that NHACC has four upcoming classes pertaining to DES permitting. Any TCC member can sign up, free of charge at their website, [nhacc.org](http://nhacc.org). Two classes will be via Zoom on 3/31 and 4/14 while two other classes will be in Concord on 5/19 and 6/2 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

#### **VII. Non-Public Session**

Not applicable.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Selectman Pike and seconded by Vice Chairman Wingate. Motion passed unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Lemire, Tuftonboro Conservation Commission Secretary  
March 27, 2023*