

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

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**April 17, 2023**

**Present:** Vice Chairman Steven Wingate. Members: Heather Brown, Larry Gil, Mark Howard Michael Phelps, Selectman Guy Pike, Lynne Walsh. ***Staff:*** Jane Lemire.

**Absent:** Chairman Stephen Scapicchio, Kate Nesbit.

**Call to Order:** In Chairman Scapicchio's absence, Vice Chairman Wingate called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**I. Consideration of Minutes**

A. March 20, 2023

Mr. Gil pointed out two corrections needed to [*V. Old Business A. Nineteen Mile Brook Monitoring.*]

A motion to accept the amended Minutes of March 20, 2023 with two corrections: *V. A. Nineteen Mile Brook Monitoring [second paragraph, second sentence] to read as follows: "As much of a match is needed to determine the biggest data spread possible to have a sense of whether the discharge coming from RIBs is impacting Nineteen Mile Brook.";* and last sentence of same second paragraph to be omitted was made by Mr. Phelps and seconded by Ms. Walsh. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

**II. Discussion Items**

A. Central Park Trail New Ending

Vice Chairman Wingate distributed a map which Chairman Scapicchio put together detailing the proposed trail change to avoid the cell tower. The group looked over and discussed.

B. TSI (Timber Stand Improvement) – Phelps/Sargent Lot

Vice Chairman Wingate stated forest plans are written for all the town forested properties. The Sargent lot has many young trees; some of which are being overshadowed and won't grow. Other areas are being evaluated. Vice Chairman Wingate will be meeting with a contractor in a few weeks to discuss a concept and to get a detailed proposal. Presently, the budget for this work stands at \$2,000.00 which likely will not cover everything which needs to be done. Once the proposal is received, Vice Chairman Wingate will meet with the BOS to discuss. The contractor will work on 5-10 acres to showcase and present to the BOS how he

will proceed with the land and what will be done. Any town resident interested will also be available to view the area.

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

The status of permit applications was reported by Jane Lemire.

### IV. **Correspondence – None.**

### V. **Old Business**

#### A. Nineteen Mile Brook Monitoring

Mr. Gil reported he attended a zoom meeting with FB Environmental and Dave Ford discussing work done to date and future work. There will not be a cost increase. FBE will do a final round of split sampling with Woodard & Curran. Overall, Mr. Gil said the meeting went well. The final report should be complete in February/March 2024.

#### B. Great Meadow Trail

Vice Chairman Wingate reminded the group that TCC is hosting a tour of the Great Meadow Trail for area conservation commission members on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm. Also, TCC will host another tour group in May from Tree Tribe who once per month walk hiking trails all over the state to identify plant species and compile a list.

Vice Chairman Wingate also stated that benches will be built on the backside of the observation platform and connecting the walkways and proceeding with the loop trail as some of the work that will continue this season. He hasn't had the opportunity to walk the trail yet this spring but stated Chairman Scapicchio has and said it looks like the beavers have returned as the ground is very wet.

Vice Chairman Wingate stated that in late September a contractor will work to remove the invasive weed/plant species. Eventually this will create an opportunity to manage the area for wildlife by bringing in natural shrubs that produce food in fall and spring when other foods are hard to find.

#### C. Trail Maintenance Work Plans

Vice Chairman Wingate reminded the group that trail maintenance will take place on May 20<sup>th</sup> (with a rain date of May 27<sup>th</sup>). TCC members and volunteers will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Town Offices. Ms. Walsh, Chairman Scapicchio, and Vice Chairman Wingate will lead groups on three different trails.

Ms. Podsen stated that the trail between the school and the library needs a new entrance on the library side. Vice Chairman Wingate will seek out someone who can help with this.

**VI. New Business**

A. TCS Earth Date

Ms. Podsen reported that once again this year the 4/5/6 grade classes will be participating in a TCC sponsored Earth Day Essay Contest, due on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to the school testing schedule, this is an optional assignment for the students. Any TCC member who would like to read the essays to help in choosing winners, please contact Ms. Podsen. Prizes this year will be gift cards from the Country Bookseller store in Wolfeboro.

***A motion to purchase gift cards from the Country Bookseller up to the amount of \$250.00 to be used as prizes for the TCC sponsored Earth Day Essay Contest at Tuftonboro School was made by Vice Chairman Wingate and seconded by Mr. Gil. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.***

B. Other

Vice Chairman Wingate stated a resident contacted him via a phone message received regarding a possible proposal of selling some land to the town. Vice Chairman Wingate will reach out to him.

**VII. Non-Public Session**

Not applicable.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Phelps and seconded by Ms. Walsh. Motion passed unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Lemire, Tuftonboro Conservation Commission Secretary  
April 21, 2023*