

**TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**
240 Middle Road
Center Tuftonboro, NH 03816

**MEETING MINUTES
July 19, 2021**

Present: Chairman Steve Wingate, Vice Chairman Stephen Scapicchio. *Members:* Heather Brown, Larry Gil, Mark Howard, Kate Nesbit, Michael Phelps, Selectmen's Rep Guy Pike, Laurel Podsen, Lynne Walsh.

Guest: Catherine Dufault

Staff Present: Jane Lemire

Call to Order: Chairman Wingate called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Chairman Wingate introduced guest Catherine Dufault, District Manager of Carroll County Conservation District. Ms. Dufault detailed her duties and the organization's scope of work.

I. Consideration of Minutes

a. June 21, 2021

A motion to accept the Minutes of 6/21/21 as amended was made and seconded. Motion passed unanimous.

II. Discussion Items

a. BioBlitz

In September 2021, UNH Extension is sponsoring a statewide BioBlitz to get community members outside exploring the species found on town-owned lands all over New Hampshire. A BioBlitz is a species scavenger hunt where volunteers help find and record data on as many different species (plants, animals, insects, fungi) as possible in a certain area and a short amount of time. Participants can share their observations using [iNaturalist](#), an app and website, that will collect data about the wild living things on town-owned lands across the state. This effort will help towns gather information about their natural resources and is a way to get community members engaged and learning on town-owned land.

UNH Extension developed resources to help community members find town-owned lands including a new NH Town Lands Map – a new virtual map of all municipal properties. To explore information on finding town-owned lands and share this information with community members so they can participate in the 2021 NH BioBlitz, please go to:

<https://extension.unh.edu/resource/participate-2021-nh-bioblitz>

II. Discussion Items (Continued)

a. BioBlitz (continued)

Two training webinars via Zoom are scheduled in August (8/10 at 12 pm and 8/12 at 4:30 pm) for people interested in participating in the 2021 NH BioBlitz. For more information and to register for these free information sessions, please go to the above link address.

Chairman Wingate encouraged commission members to participate.

b. Taking Action for Wildlife

The Taking Action for Wildlife organization provides community assistance to help protect wildlife and habitats primarily through their annual *Community Conservation Cohort* training. Conservation commissions are invited to join an in-depth training program and hands-on project work. Each community needs a team of 3-5 participants. In addition to conservation commissioners, teams can include 1-2 participants from other boards/committees or other community volunteers. Live online training is mandatory and is scheduled throughout the months of September through November. Project work will run December 2021 through April 2022 with a project presentation on April 22, 2022. For more information you can contact Amanda Stone at amanda.stone@unh.edu.

c. Watershed Plan

Chairman Wingate stated that the next step is to form a committee for the watershed plan. Mr. Gil volunteered to serve on this committee and begin plan implementation. In addition, a grant proposal is to be submitted this September to help support the plan. The group discussed additional monitoring ideas.

d. Budget Allocations

Chairman Wingate reviewed the commission's budget year-to-date. The group discussed spending to date and future spending plans.

e. Mirror Lake Conservation

The MLPA board of directors' meeting was held earlier this month. MLPA continues to wait for Rick van de Poll to complete his report. MLPA's next meeting will take place Saturday, August 14th at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Fire Station.

III. Status of Dredge & Fill Applications

The most recent applications and status of others was reported.

IV. Correspondence

- Lake Winnepesaukee Association sent a membership renewal notice. The cost to a club/association/nonprofit is \$75.00. A motion to renew TCC's membership was made and seconded. Motion passed unanimous.

V. Old Business

a. Lawall Easement

No news to report.

b. Trail Cameras

No news to report.

c. Nineteen Mile Brook Monitoring

Mr. Gil updated the group of the progress and stated there was discussion about getting more information between sampling periods. The next sampling is scheduled for August 2nd.

d. Great Meadow Trail Progress

Phase I is coming along well with five of the planned eight walkways complete and one of the two bridges also complete. Work will continue this week.

e. Forest Plans

Chairman Wingate updated the group on plans including possible bike trails in the area behind the fire station.

f. Well Water Testing

Well water testing kits will be available to residents from July 19-24, 2021 at the town office lobby. Collection will be on July 25th from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm also at the town office lobby. Ms. Brown will deliver the kits for testing in Concord on Monday, July 26, 2021.

VI. New Business

a. Election of Officers

Chairman Wingate announced he was stepping down as chairman of the conservation commission and nominated Vice Chairman Stephen Scapicchio for the chairman position. Chairman Wingate asked the group if there were any other nominations; to which there was not. A motion to confirm Stephen Scapicchio as Chairman of the TCC was made and seconded. Motion passed unanimous.

VI. New Business (Continued)

a. Election of Officers (continued)

Newly elected Chairman Scapicchio nominated Steven Wingate to serve as vice chairman of the conservation commission. A motion to confirm Steven Wingate as Vice Chairman of TCC was made and seconded. Motion passed unanimous.

b. Other

Chairman Wingate asked for a volunteer to write a story about Great Meadow and how it came to be which will be displayed at the kiosks. Ms. Nesbit volunteered.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the public session and enter non-public session. Motion passed unanimous.

VII. Non-Public Session

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the non-public session and enter public session, as well as to seal non-public minutes. Motion passed unanimous.

Adjourn: There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the July 19, 2021 TCC meeting. A roll call vote followed; motion passed unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Lemire, Tuftonboro Conservation Commission Secretary
July 21, 2021*