

TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2022

Present: Chairman Stephen Scapicchio, Vice Chairman Steven Wingate, Heather Brown, Larry Gil, Mark Howard, Guy Pike, Laurel Podsen, Lynne Walsh. Staff: Jane Lemire.

Absent: Kate Nesbit, Michael Phelps.

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

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. April 18, 2022

A motion to accept the Minutes of April 18, 2022 as presented was made by Ms. Podsen and seconded by Ms. Walsh. All in favor; motion passed unanimous.

II. Discussion Items

A. Lyon Lot Update

Chairman Scapicchio reported that the property closed and is now owned by the town. It is now part of the Great Meadow, adding an additional 22 acres.

B. Earth Day Essay Contest

Ms. Podsen reported that grades 4 – 6 participated. Chairman Scapicchio, Ms. Podsen and Ms. Walsh read the essays. The essay contest received a great response and the children have been in suspense to hear the winners. Three students from each grade was chosen for their exemplary essay and will receive a \$20.00 gift card to the Country Bookseller. Ms. Podsen stated she hopes that the teachers will make this an annual contest for the students. TCC will post a photo of the winners on their Facebook page if they have a parental release form. Ms. Podsen thanked the commission for allowing the money to be spent this way on the students.

C. Budget Update

Due to Ms. Nesbit's absence, a budget update will be on next month's agenda. Chairman Scapicchio stated the budget is in good shape.

D. RTP (Recreational Trails Program) Grant

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a grant program that offers funding for quality public trail projects throughout New Hampshire. Limited grants are available for

motorized, non-motorized and diversified trails. Eligible projects include maintenance and restoration of existing trails, purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages. Applicants may be non-profit organizations, private groups, educational institutions, or government entities.

RTP funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from nonhighway recreational fuel use: fuel used for off-highway recreation by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway light trucks. These funds are appropriated to the states by the Federal Highway Administration as authorized through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The program in New Hampshire is administered by the Bureau of Trails.

RTP application for Federal Fiscal Year 2023 is now available. Due Date is Friday, June 17, 2022 by 4:00 p.m. Attendance to at least one of the three RTP workshops is required to apply:

- May 18, 2022, at 1:00 pm, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord, NH 03301.
- May 18, 2022, at 6:00 pm, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord, NH 03301.
- May 25, 2022, at 6:00 pm, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 629 B Main St., Lancaster, NH 03584.

Chairman Scapicchio stated that Ms. Catherine Dufault, District Manager of Carroll County Conservation District will apply on TCC's and Parks & Recreation behalf. TCC is seeking \$8,000.00 for the Great Meadow trail and Parks & Recreation is applying for \$55,000.00 for the bike trail. A percentage of the funds will go to Ms. Dufault as payment for her work.

E. Potter/Appleton Lot

Chairman Scapicchio reported he met with Robin Appleton Potter and Scott Appleton to enquire if they would be interested in selling the wedge of land (just under one acre) at the Route 109 bridge that would give access to TCC to monitor the water level and keep the area cleaned out. They were open to the sale and agreed to a \$5,000.00 purchase price.

A motion to move forward with approval to purchase a portion of land (Route 109 Bridge, one acre) from Robin Potter and Scott Appleton for five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) was made by Vice Chairman Wingate and seconded by Selectman Pike. All in favor, motion passed unanimous.

Selectman Pike stated the board of selectmen will be meeting on Monday, May 23rd at 4:30 p.m. and he will discuss this with the other selectmen.

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 was unable to go with FB Environmental for the latest sampling collection. This collection was done in conjunction with Wolfeboro's consultants. Wolfeboro has agreed to lower detection limits for nitrogen from >5 to >2. Mr. Gil is pleased with this as it reaches closer to what the actual number is. Mr. Gil spoke of other outstanding issues including PFAS levels (which FBE can do an analysis), Specific Conductivity can be measured and is an indication of salt which is creating a problem with the water. He stated he has sent correspondence to Dave Ford and is awaiting a response. Mr. Gil also spoke with Luke Frankel, Project Scientist from FB Environmental who will consult with Wolfeboro.

B. Great Meadow Trail Progress

Chairman Scapicchio reminded the commission that the lumber needed to continue with the platform build was purchased last fall and has been stored at Vice Chairman Wingate's house. Chairman Scapicchio and Vice Chairman Wingate have moved this lumber to the trail head. Ms. Walsh has been in contact with LRTC and hopes they will have their Americorp Volunteers move it the rest of the way. Chairman Scapicchio and Vice Chairman Wingate have done work on the trail, breaking up multiple beaver dams (including a quite large one) blocking the Melvin River. Vice Chairman Wingate stated that a contractor working at his home has volunteered to help. In addition, another town resident has reached out to volunteer.

C. Forest Plans

Vice Chairman Wingate reported that the field day tour led by the forester will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. and will meet at the fire station. (*In case of inclement weather, the tour will be on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.*) The Board of Selectmen will attend and all TCC members were encouraged to attend.

D. Lawall Easement - No report.

E. Bean Easement

Chairman Scapicchio reported that we are moving forward with this acquisition. Rick Van de Poll will be applying for a grant that will cover the cost fully.

F. Other

- Chairman Scapicchio reported that he and Ms. Walsh have been working on trail signage for the Hackl trails. The trail is beautiful with brooks and streams and the few hundred acres are well maintained.
- Vice Chairman Wingate enquired about Old Home Days. Ms. Podsen responded that Parks and Recreation will be meeting on May 17, 2022 and are planning the day. The only change this year will be the location of the scavenger hunt, which will be held behind the fire station.
- Chairman Scapicchio confirmed with Ms. Podsen that the Well Water Testing collection will be on Sunday, July 24th. Notices will be placed in the Tuftonboro Times and Granite State News to advise residents. It has been decided that residents who would like a testing kit will have to provide their email address so that TCC can send reminders for collection date. TCC's hope is to receive all kits back that are taken.

VI. **New Business**

- Mr. Gil asked if TCC would have interest in meeting with the Wolfeboro Conservation Commission. Chairman Scapicchio stated he would like to pursue this and is open to a sharing of information. In particular, Vice Chairman Wingate mentioned the Mount Pleasant project which is partially in Wolfeboro. Mr. Gil will reach out to Ms. Lenore Clark, Chair of the Wolfeboro Conservation Commission to see if they would be interested in a joint meeting.

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 Mr. Gil. Motion passed unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Lemire, Tuftonboro Conservation Commission Secretary
May 18, 2022*