

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

MEETING MINUTES
March 15, 2021

Due to COVID-19, the 3/15/21 meeting was held virtually via GoToMeeting. The following people were present and identified by roll call:

Members present: Chairman Steve Wingate, Vice Chairman Stephen Scapicchio, Members: Larry Gil, Kate Nesbit, Laurel Podsen

Members not present: Heather Brown, Mark Howard, Alternate Mike Phelps

Guest: Lynne Walsh

Staff present: Jane Lemire

Call to Order: Chairman Wingate called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Chairman Wingate welcomed Tuftonboro resident Lynne Walsh who is interested in becoming an alternate member of the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission. All members introduced themselves to Ms. Walsh and she introduced herself.

I. Consideration of Minutes

a. February 15, 2021

Mr. Gil made a motion to accept the Minutes of 2/15/21 as presented. Vice Chairman Scapicchio seconded. A roll call vote followed. Motion passed unanimous.

b. January 14, 2021

Vice Chairman Scapicchio made a motion to accept the Minutes of 1/14/21 as presented. Mr. Gil seconded. A roll call vote followed. Motion passed unanimous.

II. Discussion Items

a. Meeting Strategy

Chairman Wingate asked all TCC members whether they felt comfortable going back to having meetings in person. Due to the concerns of COVID-19 still, most members prefer to keep the meetings virtual at this time.

b. Ducks Unlimited

Chairman Wingate and Vice Chairman Scapicchio attended a meeting with a talk by Ducks Unlimited about the programs they have for preserving wetlands. Chairman Wingate contacted the presenter to see if there was any possibility that they could help with the Great Meadow project. The response was a tentative maybe. They have a land acquisition program that they support. There

Ducks Unlimited (continued)

is just one project in NH; with very few in New England. The majority of their support was in the southern states. Although they cannot help us with our current project acquisition costs, they may be able to help with any associated costs such as surveying, etc. Chairman Wingate will keep in contact in addition to another organization called Trout Unlimited.

III. Status of Dredge & Fill Applications

No new applications reported.

IV. Correspondence

No new correspondence reported.

V. Old Business

a. Lyons' Lot

Chairman Wingate briefly went through the history on this lot for Ms. Walsh. The Town has to approve the \$50,000 Warrant Article in May before anything else can happen. If the Warrant Article is approved there will still be an approximate \$30,000 shortfall that will need to be raised. There is possible support from Landbank and Moose Mountain. The Selectmen asked Chairman Wingate to have attorney R. Sager contact Ms. Lyons' attorney to see if they support this acquisition. They replied by email that they do. R. Sager is preparing a legal document for their signature.

b. Other Easement News

Non-public session.

c. Great Meadow Trail – Spring Plans

Vice Chairman Scapicchio stated he recently walked to the end of the trail; nothing new to report. Work on the trail will continue again beginning in June. Volunteers will be sought from Camp Belknap and Nature Groupies as well as local residents.

d. NEAB Conference - Larry

Mr. Gil reported that he attended the virtual NEAB Conference which was well attended and informational. It was very organized; the presentations were very good and were largely given by aquatic biologists. He emailed all TCC members a list of pertinent topics to TCC highlighted in bold with the links to view the presentations on YouTube.

e. Saving Special Places

Chairman Wingate asked members who may be interested to sign up for this conference if not done so already.

VI. New Business

a. Trail Kiosk

Vice Chairman Scapicchio suggested that two kiosks be stationed at the trails of Great Meadow. The approximate cost for one basic kiosk is \$600. Discussion followed on ideas for funding and Vice Chairman Scapicchio will look into the prospect of NH's Moose Plate grant program.

b. Trail Cameras

Vice Chairman Scapicchio suggested two trail cameras be placed along the trail in two key areas where many various animal tracks have been spotted. Chairman Wingate agreed and commented that the budget can support this cost up to \$300. Mr. Gill made a motion to purchase two/three trail cameras along with batteries. Ms. Nesbit seconded. Roll call vote followed, all were in favor.

c. Nineteen Mile Brook Monitoring

Chairman Wingate stated that the project is moving forward and that the budget passed in Wolfeboro. On 3/25 there is an orientation scheduled for FB Environmental to go onsite. Chairman Wingate asked if any members would also like to attend. In addition, Chairman Wingate asked for volunteers to also attend on days yet to be scheduled for monitoring set up stations and sampling days. Chairman Wingate will notify FBE of members planning to attend these site visits.

Other

Chairman Wingate spoke of upcoming meetings if any member would be interested in attending:

- 3/25/21 – via Zoom 5:30 pm Bat Habitat
- 3/29/21 – via Zoom 6:00 pm LRPC Flood Planning Management
- 4/07/21 – via Zoom 7:00 pm NH Lakes – Lakes in Spring

Chairman Wingate will forward information on these to all members.

TCC Alternate Member Vote

Chairman Wingate asked Ms. Walsh if she would like to be considered for an alternate member slot on the conservation commission; Ms. Walsh responded yes. Vice Chairman Scapicchio made the motion to nominate Ms. Lynne Walsh as an alternate member of the commission. Mr. Gil seconded. Roll call vote followed, all were in favor. Ms. Walsh's nomination will be forwarded to the selectmen for their vote. Chairman Wingate excused Ms. Walsh prior to the non-public session.

VII. Non-Public Session (if needed)

Chairman Wingate made a motion to enter into a non-public session; Vice Chairman Scapicchio seconded. Roll call vote followed; all were in favor.

Exit nonpublic and seal the minutes.

Adjourn: There being no further business, at 8:12 p.m. Ms. Nesbit moved to adjourn the March 15, 2021 TCC meeting, seconded by Mr. Gil. Roll call vote followed; all were in favor.

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Lemire, Tuftonboro Conservation Commission Secretary
March 17, 2021*

*Tuftonboro Conservation Commission
Meeting Draft Minutes of Monday, March 15, 2021*