

TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 2023

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

Absent: Kate Nesbit, Laurel Podsen, Lynne Walsh.

Other: Dave Ford

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

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. January 16, 2023

A motion to accept the Minutes of January 16, 2023 as presented but with a correction to: *II. Discussion Items A. Veronica Bodge – MMRG* (second paragraph, first sentence) to delete “MLU” and to insert “MoU” memorandum of understanding was made by Mr. Gil and seconded by Mr. Phelps. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

II. Discussion Items

A. Pending Legislation

Vice Chairman Wingate stated he sent the group email on wetlands as well as information he received from NHACC for their information. Chairman Scapicchio stated that since TCC is a member, all commission members can receive their monthly newsletter and attend classes. Both the newsletter and classes provide interesting and important information. Chairman Scapicchio is attending a virtual class on 3/18/23 regarding NHDES On-Line GIS Mapping Tools. To sign up for the newsletter and/or to see upcoming classes you can locate them online at <https://www.nhacc.org>.

B. Saving Special Places

Vice Chairman Wingate reminded the group that UNH’s Saving Special Places is coming up. Two virtual sessions are scheduled on Thursday, 3/30/23 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. with keynote speaker Katharine Hayhoe and on Friday, 4/7/23 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. with Peter Forbes. On Saturday, 4/15/23 the in-person conference will take place at Prospect Mountain High School in Alton from 8:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. More detailed information and registration for this event is located online at <https://extension.unh.edu/savingspecialplaces>. Chairman Scapicchio encouraged attendance and asked members to submit receipts for fee reimbursement.

III. Status of Dredge & Fill Applications

The status of permit applications was reported by Jane Lemire.

IV. Correspondence

- LChip Stewardship Grant for \$600.00 received;
- Forest Society annual outreach letter regarding town-owned property in which they hold a deed restriction; no conflict found.

V. Old Business

A. Nineteen Mile Brook

Mr. Gil stated he just received the report from FB Environmental and is reviewing it. It's a lengthy report and once he reviews its entirety, he will report at the next TCC meeting. In addition, Chairman Scapicchio stated he and Mr. Gil took a Mirror Lake water sample this week. The ice was 11.5" thick.

B. Great Meadow Trail Update

i. Bean Easement/Lyon Lot Easement

Chairman Scapicchio reported that the Bean Easement is moving forward. There is a March 15th deadline for the owners to review the draft warranty deed easement.

Chairman Scapicchio reported that the Lyon's lot warranty deed that Moose Mountain wants in place (with the proper language and LChip) to our town attorneys for their review. After multiple phone calls to them for the status they finally responded last week and stated they missed the deadline. There are changes needed. Also, it is required to go in front of the town for a meeting and is to be a warrant article. Chairman Scapicchio responded back that all warrant articles have already been published with DRA approval and what do you suggest we do from here. They have yet to respond. Chairman Scapicchio will try to reach them again tomorrow (2/22/23). In addition, Chairman Scapicchio is meeting with the BOS on Monday, 2/27 to discuss this.

ii. Horner Lot/Brown Lot

Chairman Scapicchio stated TCC is working with Rick Van de Poll on how to fund these two lots. The Horner lot is 83-acres off Old Wood Road and the Brown lot is 22-acres which connects to the Melvin River. These are important areas in helping to protect the Melvin River and TCC will continue working to acquire these easements.

iii. Trail Volunteers

Chairman Scapicchio reported that three new people have signed up to volunteer on the Great Meadow trail work. Two of the people reached out

after walking the trail and loving it. Once winter is over, the informational map at the kiosk will be posted. Vice Chairman Wingate suggested TCC have a cutting ribbon ceremony to celebrate a grand opening. At the next TCC meeting, Chairman Scapicchio will ask commission members who would like to volunteer to organize this public event.

C. MMRG Conservation Mixer

Chairman Scapicchio reported the event was successful and attendees were impressed with the presentation he and Vice Chairman Wingate did on the Great Meadow. Many attendees stated their interest in having a group tour of Great Meadow come spring.

VI. **New Business**

Vice Chairman Wingate stated that Moose Mountain Regional Greenways (MMRG) is currently raising funds for their conservation plan involving Tuftonboro and Ossipee. Tuftonboro and Ossipee are two new towns that are now members but not yet part of their plan. MMRG will hold the easement to the Lyon's lot, which is how they became interested in our town. They are an excellent organization that focuses on education and educating young students as well. Chairman Scapicchio stated MMRG has a conservation plan for the other five towns that are part of MMRG but being new members Tuftonboro and Ossipee are not yet included. There is a cost of \$10,000.00 for the two towns to be included in the plan with Tuftonboro's cost being \$5,000.00. The group discussed contributing \$1,000.00 to Tuftonboro's cost. Chairman Scapicchio stated TCC has an approximate balance of \$20,800 in our conservation account with \$5,000 already committed to the small lot on Route 109 to be purchased. Mr. Howard suggested a \$1,000 contribution.

Motion: To donate \$1,000.00 to Moose Mountain Regional Greenways for the purpose of a conservation fund for the Tuftonboro conservation plan made by Vice Chairman Wingate and seconded by Selectman Pike. Chairman Scapicchio abstained from voting. All in favor; vote passed unanimously.

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 7:30 p.m.

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