

**Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the
Walpole Conservation Commission
January 6, 2020**

Members Present: Alicia Flammia, Lewis Shelley, France Menk, Steven Dumont, Jackie Kenson, Cheryl Mayberry (Selectboard Liaison), Jean Kobeski (Secretary)

Members Absent: John Peska, Laura Hayes

Alternate Present: Elaine Heleen

Call to Order: Alicia called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in Walpole Town Hall.

Review and Approval of Minutes: France asked that the minutes of 12/9/2019 state that she feels a 50' buffer is too close due to the impact of climate change. Alicia stated that the conservation plan has a buffer of 100' between infrastructures, whereas the state has an RSA with a buffer of 50' for named bodies of water and designated prime wetlands. Steven moved; Lew seconded, and all approved the revised minutes.

Public Business

Treasury: Conservation balance is \$132,998.50; Forestry is \$36,547.13; Walker Road is \$3,045.07; Mason non-expendable is \$17,580.32 and expendable \$419,258.03.

Invoices:

1. Keene Monument - \$1,612.25 for Harold Putnam Bench
2. Membership in NH Association of Conservation Commissions - \$275. Steven moved; Jackie seconded, and all voted to pay

Correspondences:

1. Letter from Fuss and O'Neill about their moving
2. Monadnock Conservancy request for funds
3. SW Regional Planning Commission October and November Newsletters
4. American Whitewater public notification of Fair Swap Project in the Berkshires and Deerfield River
5. NH Charitable Foundation Newsletter
6. DES notification of approval for Alan Johnson's forestry project
7. Duncan Watson's appointment letter
8. Connecticut River Conservancy request for a resolution to be voted on during Town Meeting
9. FERC letter about public comment process on ponding and dam release
10. Flyers from the Hooper Institute and Distant Hill Gardens for the Walking Tour of Trees on Sunday, January 12

Cheryl asked if the WCC donates to the Monadnock Conservancy and was told it is done through projects.

New Business

Alicia suggested submitting articles to the *Clarion* on a monthly basis and asked the members to suggest topics for future articles. France is working on an article for February about the Walpole Gateway and a survey of how townspeople would like to use the land. She distributed a draft of both and explained that people could complete the survey electronically or request a self-addressed hard copy from Town Hall.

France also suggested that WCC meetings be put on the *Clarion's* calendar. She will email Ray Boas to do this.

Cheryl suggested that a future article may be an introduction to the Walpole Conservation Commission. She also suggested short articles on topics related to the commission. For example, one might answer the question, "What is a Wetland?"

Old Business

Alicia invited Helen Dalback of the Hooper Institute to the January meeting; Helen prefers to attend in February.

Great Brook Forest Rapid Assessment: Jackie summarized the article that was emailed by Alicia to the membership. All agreed that nothing needs to be done right away as a result of the report.

Stream and Wetland Buffers: Steven has a list of towns with buffer requirements. 50' from stream or wetland is okay; 100' is better. If a wetland is to be designated as prime, a new zoning ordinance would be needed.

Cheryl explained that building permits must be approved by the Selectboard for Walpole Village and Drewsville. The North Walpole Selectboard issues permits for N. Walpole. She explained that no permit is needed if the building is non-commercial, \$10,000 or less, and the footprint of the building is unaffected.

Joint Meetings with Boards: The membership agreed that it would be a good idea to form subcommittees of the WCC that would meet with other boards to discuss topics like building permits, a buffer system, and prime wetlands. The subcommittees would need to establish goals and how often to meet. France moved; Steven seconded, and all voted in favor of setting up the subcommittees. Steven and Alicia expressed interest in being on a committee. Steven will send an email to the membership explaining the role of the subcommittees. Alicia stated that meetings would be work sessions and would not take place during regular meeting times.

Walpole Gateway: Ideas for kiosk materials were discussed. France suggested information on the property, flora and fauna. Steven suggested deer tick information, and all agreed that the kiosk should have a map. Alicia has maps from the open house; Lew said he can generate a trail map. Lew has Leave No Trace signs. Lew warned that if they want to put brochures or other information in a box, it must be waterproof.

It was decided that Leave No Trace signs and a brochure designed by France will be displayed at the kiosk ASAP. Both sides of France's brochure will be shown; As soon as members have reviewed her brochure and it has been edited, she will make copies of each side on her photocopier, Lew will create the display.

It was suggested that an article explaining Leave No Trace be submitted to the March issue of the *Clarion*.

Harold Putnam Memorial: Lew reports that it is done; he has contacted the family but has not heard back from them.

WCC Easement Property List: Steven said he and Laura need to meet to discuss this.

Town Website: Kelli reached out to Ryan about including documents and the conservation plan on a WCC web page. France wants to make the list of WCC members easily accessible. Alicia asked members to think about what they would want to see on a WCC web page. Cheryl explained that the website architecture is difficult to navigate because there is no website manager. France said she offered to redesign the website, but her offer was declined in Town Hall. Lew and Steven suggested utilizing the WCC Facebook page.

Reservoir Dam Work: John was absent from the meeting and Alicia did not have notes from him. He was supposed to write a letter to the Selectboard requesting funds from the state money given to the town for infrastructure.

Mill Pond Tree Work is not done.

Mason Forest Roofing: No report yet from Gary.

Other Business:

France will post her photos of invasive species at the Reservoir Dam on the WCC Facebook page. She will post the draft of her brochure for members to review on Google Docs.

Lew moved, Steven seconded, and all voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting is Monday, February 3, 2020, at Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Kobeski, Recording Secretary

*** These minutes are in draft form until approved by the Commission on February 3, 2020.