

**Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the
Walpole Conservation Commission
March 7, 2022 Via Zoom**

Members Present: John Peska, France Menk, Peter Palmiotto, Lewis Shelley, Laura Hayes, Steven Dumont, Samantha Loch, Kara Dexter (Alternate)

Members Absent: Alicia Flammia

Visitors Present: Cheryl Mayberry, Peggy Pschirrer (Selectboard Liaisons), Jean Kobeski (Recording Secretary), Will and Wendy Grossman

Call to Order: John Peska called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. He welcomed the WCC's newest member, Samantha Loch, who expressed her excitement to be part of the group.

Review and Approval of Minutes: John asked for a change to the February 7 minutes. On page four under Reservoir Dam, paragraph two, *\$800 billion* should be replaced with *monies* to read "Infrastructure Bill includes monies for dam removal." With that correction, Frances moved to accept the amended February 7, 2022 minutes. Lew seconded, and all voted to approve the minutes.

Public Business

Correspondences: Jean read Alicia's email with two announcements. First, she signed up for the Rutgers course on dam removal scheduled for 3/24 - 3/25. Second, she announced the Long Island Sound Futures Fund 2022 RFP is open. The deadline is Thursday, May 19, 2022.

The amount and types of funding are as follows:

- \$50k - \$1.5m for "shovel ready" projects
- \$50k - \$500k for planning: watershed, resilience, feasibility, suitability/alternatives analyses, site assesment/conceptual design, final design/permits
- *In the Upper Basin of the Long Island Sound Watershed (CT, MA, NH, and VT)* grants available for **water quality** - projects to prevent nitrogen loading, riparian forested buffer, in-stream restoration, to address agricultural run-off retrofits at wastewater treatment facilities, etc.

The In-stream flow study report for Cold River-report from NHDES:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/r-wd-21-13.pdf>

<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/r-wd-21-09.pdf>

John said he would look into the grants and bring more information to the next meeting.

Treasury Report: Conservation: \$179,112.99

Forestry: \$30,658.54

Walker Rd.: \$2,138.20

Mason Expendable: \$492,126.76

Mason Non-Expendable: \$21,002.42

New Business- None at this time

Old Business

Walpole Gateway: Steven asked Peter if he contacted Chuck Shaw about any existing surveys. Peter said he did follow up with Ray and Chuck. Chuck said he has a survey. Peter said he hopes it's the type they need, one done by a survey company.

Wendy Grossman said she forwarded to Alicia an official RR survey map done in 1914, which shows the corridor. Alicia forwarded the map to a few WCC members. France stated she would like to have a copy. Wendy said she would send it to France.

The membership saw a projection of the map, which Wendy described in detail. Peter asked Wendy if there is an additional map showing the front of the Gateway and vet clinic. She said there is not. These just showed the railway and the corridor. She suggested that the state may possibly have what Peter is requesting. They may have maps from when Route 12 was moved in the early 1960s. Lew stated the NHDOT should have maps of roads related to the corridor. Peggy asked if anyone has checked the Cheshire County Registry of Deeds. They have a Registry of Surveys. Peter asked if this could be done online. Kara said she has information about how to search the Registry of Deeds online. Peggy said they may not be able to copy anything out without payment. She will talk to Sarah Downing about how the town does it.

In terms of parking and the turnaround area, Peter wants to take a Gateway field trip in early April. At the next meeting they should set a date for the walk. John agreed and thought it should include anyone who has been involved with this project. France suggested inviting the public; John agrees but feels it would be best if just the Commission members went first so they could get their game plan together before sharing it with the public.

Other Business

Walpole Trails Subcommittee: Steven reported he checked with Sarah Downing, who said they do not have any magazine-type racks available in Town Hall. She said she would discuss this and available space Thursday night at the Selectboard meeting. Lew offered to make a rack. It would be 18"H and 12"W. He said it could fit in a space near the maps in Town Hall. Peggy said she will discuss this with the Selectboard. She said they need to talk about it so that the location they choose would be convenient, obvious, and reasonable. She feels the back corner by the big maps might be the best location.

Steven has been in touch with Curry Printing about printing the maps. They will cost 64 cents/sheet and would cost less than the \$500 approved by the Commission at the last meeting.

Steven said at the last trail committee meeting they talked about events for the year. It was suggested that they upgrade one trail/year. They could do a work plan based on the trails they have, starting with the Mill Pond. They can have a kick-off in April/May. Finish the work then have a public guided walk on the trail.

Steven asked Wendy to give an update on the Rail Trail. She said they are still writing reports for the grants and pushing to get permission to do maintenance work on the trail. She said the state is developing a new Rail Trail Plan, which, in the area of funding priorities, left out Cheshire County. She is working to rectify that omission.

Property Monitoring: Laura stated that, though she was not at the last meeting where this was discussed, she learned about the confusion over the Grossman's easement on the conservation map. She said that she will work to get their easement corrected on the map. But, as Laura explained it, these maps are not always done to the precise scale they may want. Steven said they are created for scope of where the easements are, not necessarily precision. Laura

suggested that they should include a disclaimer on the maps so they are not used literally. She asked Peter to help her write a disclaimer.

Steven asked the status of the large conservation wall map that has been previously discussed. Peter said he is working on it. It will most likely be 2'x3', and Cheryl said a frame will be purchased for it. Peggy said it would be hung on the wall across from the big maps in Town Hall where the giant check from the EPA now hangs.

Steven reported that work still needs to be done on the spreadsheet and their goal should be to monitor every property this year. Steven asked for help in doing this. Laura asked if there will be a standardized form to use when monitoring and whether non-WCC members can do the monitoring. Steven said there are a number of community volunteers who have expressed interest in doing this. Steven suggested choosing a smaller easement and having a tutorial for all who are interested. Lew stated this should be done before leaves come out because it will be much easier. Mid April-May 15th was his suggestion. Steven asked Lew if he would be available on a day during this time to help with this training. The group set a date of April 30th. Laura said there are several templates on the Land Trust website. She offered to work on a monitoring form they can use.

Other

Hooper Forest: Laura said the field work is done and Alex is working on the plan. She will "nudge him" to get it done ASAP.

Website Update: France has not been able to connect with Ryan, who is now working in Providence. She asked for next step suggestions. Cheryl suggested she talk to Sarah Downing about the website. John and Lew suggested she call or email Kelli Wilson. France said she would talk to both of them.

Fanny Mason: Kara reported that 501 pounds of trash were pulled out of the Mason Forest. In the trash she found an envelope with an address on it. She called Justin Sanctuary to report it. She commended France for all her help in writing precise directions for the second entrance and information for the police report. Kara also said Ben Hoy was very helpful in weighing and getting the trash out.

Invoice: Lew presented an invoice for \$70 from Rick Brackett for his work on the last map. It was mailed on February 14, due by March 15. Steven made a motion to pay the \$70 from the Trails money. France seconded, and all voted to approve. Motion carried. John asked Lew to send him the invoice and he would take care of it with Rich Kreissle in the Town Office.

Concluding Comments from John

1. New zoning regulations have been published by NHDES. There is a copy in the office.
2. The sooner the WCC gets dates on the calendar for trail maintenance, the easier it will be to get volunteers to help. Steven asked if Lew would have time to help; he said he would try to find some available dates in April. He will also send online trail maintenance websites to the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 4, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Kobeski, Recording Secretary

** These minutes are in draft form until approved at the April 4, 2022 meeting.