

**Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the  
Walpole Conservation Commission  
Monday, May 1, 2022**

**Members Present:** Alicia Flammia, France Menk, Peter Palmiotto, Lew Shelley, Steven Dumont, Wendy Grossman, Kara Dexter (Alternate), Lauren Halaquist (Intern)

**Members Absent:** John Peska

**Visitors Present:** Steve Dalessio (Select Board Liaison), Jean Kobeski (Recording Secretary)

**Call to Order:** Alicia called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. This meeting was recorded.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Kara noted the misspelling of Ms. Mayberry's name on page 2 of the April minutes. It should read *Cheryl*. Lew moved to accept the April 3, 2023 minutes as amended. France seconded, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

**Public Business**

Wendy announced that she wrote her letter of interest to become a member of the Walpole Conservation Commission. The Select Board approved it and Wendy was sworn in at Town Hall.

**Correspondences**

The WCC received a letter from the UNH Extension Barry Conservation Camp regarding the registration fee for Savannah Anderson. The cost is \$600 and it is due May 13. Steven moved to pay the registration fee for Barry Conservation Camp; Lew seconded and all voted in favor. Motion carried. It was noted that the line item for this camp will need to be raised from \$485 to \$600 in next year's budget.

Alicia shared a postcard announcing the Lakes Congress on June 2 at Church Landing, Meredith, NH.

The Commission received a letter from the Monadnock Conservancy soliciting donations.

Alicia shared three hard copies of the NH DES Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application for the Rail Trail double arch culvert at Hall's Crossing and, at the membership's request, will email copies to everyone.

She summarized the work by saying the floor is failing and NHDOT plans to stabilize the granite blocks with concrete and restore the arch. Lew asked if they considered stream passage for aquatic life; Alicia said they only noted plants.

Wendy expressed concern that the Commission has not been involved in discussions about this project because it could involve usage of the Rail Trail and any future work to

be done on it. Steve Dalessio suggested contacting the NHDOT with comments; this is the time to do it. Alicia asked if someone would get in touch with the DOT with the Commission's concerns. Wendy agreed to do it. She will be informed of their schedule and whether or not they considered aquatic life.

<b>Treasury:</b>	Mason Expendable	\$460,048.91
	Mason Non-Expendable	\$19,448.27

### **Old Business**

**Biosolids Update:** Alicia reported that the biosolids have been removed from the Chickering property. A lengthy discussion followed about biosolids and France asked if the Commission should be proactive and move toward trying to prohibit their use in Walpole. Alicia suggested consulting with the farming community to gauge their feelings about biosolids. Steven said he feels more research should be done before taking any action and asked Alicia where to get more information about the biosolids. She recommended going to the NHDES website PFAS landing page. Wendy also suggested waiting until November to see if the State imposes any more regulations on or bans use of biosolids in the state.

### **Cheshire Rail Trail:**

**RTP Grant:** Wendy stated she has received the contracts to be signed. First, the Select Board must authorize her, as Project Administrator, to sign the contract and take care of bills. This will be done at Thursday night's Select Board meeting.

Wendy and Will are ready to send out for bids; the grant requires at least three. Steve Dalessio advised Wendy to talk to Rich Kreissle about a new procurement policy. Steven asked if they are required to go with the lowest bid. Wendy said they can go to the lowest qualified bid. Peter asked Wendy if she could share the RFQ with the Commissioners.

**LWCF Grant:** Wendy said the Rail Trail Project is ineligible for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant. Kara suggested the Mill Pond project might qualify; Lew also suggested the Fanny Mason Accessible Trail.

**Special Use Permit:** Steve Dalessio stated that the Selectboard needs to approve the Special Use Permit application to brush hog the Rail Trail.

**Planning Board 4/25 Workshop:** The workshop was postponed until June. Wendy will contact Jeff Miller to make sure that she and Peter are notified of the new workshop date.

**Gateway Update:** France shared a sample of the material from Gem Graphics she recommends for signage at the Gateway property. She will email the signage quotes and information she received from Gem Graphics to the Commissioners.

There is no information yet on the sure pack.

**Hooper Forest Update:** Alicia reported that the timber harvest is complete. Alex sent the closeout report. He has some notes for Chris Ricci to add some gravel and complete some other items on the punchout list. The signage about not walking there has been removed. Alicia said she has not gone through the stumpage report yet but the project made \$56,000, which will go to the Hooper Institute.

Lew offered to have a conversation with Rob Westover and Jeff Harrington about the use of the trails going forward. Wendy has already spoken with Rob and Kara with Jeff and they are eager to mark the trails. Wendy suggested bringing this topic to the Trails Committee so they can coordinate with the bikers. Alicia asked that Lew forward any emails from Rob and Jeff to Wendy, Kara, and Steven. Steven said he would also reach out to them from the committee and Lew suggested they should wait until they have talked with the Trails Committee before doing anything.

**Hooper Liaison:** A liaison is still needed to the Hooper Board. Steven also stated the Commission needs two alternates. Alternates can serve as liaisons.

**Prioritizing Future Projects:** Kara listed projects that have been discussed in the past:

- Fanny Mason Timber Harvest
- Property Boundary Markings
- Brochure on Camping on Town Properties
- Tree Planting Event
- Partnering with Distant Hill and the Hooper Institute on Community Programs
- Devising Setbacks from Development
- Town Forest and Easement Stewardship Program
- Unlocking of the Gateway
- Adding new trails and linking existing ones
- Revisit the Conservation Plan
- Creating an ordinance for biosolids

France asked Kara to email this list to the commissioners. Timber harvest of Fanny Mason seemed to be a priority and a lengthy discussion of this project ensued.

## **Other Business**

### **Walpole Trails Subcommittee:**

Wendy reported Help Our Trails Day was very successful. 27 people attended. France suggested sending a thank you to the Town in the *Clarion* and on the website. Kara and Wendy will email thank-you's to those who participated. A report on the event will be sent to the *Clarion* and put on the website.

Kara reported that the town Clean-up Day yielded 712 pounds of trash.

**Property Monitoring:** Lauren reported that on Friday she will do a property walk of the Aldrich property with Wendy and Will (as landowners). On Saturday she will do one with Alicia of Boggy Meadow Farm.

Alicia stated the summaries look very good and are fascinating. They are up on Google Drive.

Next month Lauren will give a presentation of her work to the commissioners.

Steven suggested looking at and organizing what is on the Google Drive.

**Other:** Lew presented an invoice for \$12.28 for a padlock for Fanny Mason Forest. Steven moved to pay the \$12.28. Wendy seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Wendy stated on May 9 she plans to accompany the Monadnock Conservancy while they monitor several Walpole town forest properties on which they hold conservation easements.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47.

**The next meeting will be on Monday, June 5, 2023.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Kobeski, Recording Secretary

\*\* These minutes are in draft form until approved at the June 5, 2023 meeting.