

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2023, 7:00 PM

City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl Conference Room, 41 Green Street

Attendees: Chair Kristine Tardiff, Vice-Chair Jim Owers, Members Emily Landry, Jeff Lewis, Katherine Healy, Allison McGregor, Councilor Stacey Brown

Absent: Rick Chorman, Chris Kane

Staff: Heather Shank, City Planner

Public: Rebecca Ross  
Matt Bowser (NEMBA)

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tardiff at 7:00 p.m.

**1. Minutes**

*August 9, 2023*

A motion was made by Ms. Landry, seconded by Ms. McGregor, to approve the minutes of August 9, 2023 with changes to fix several typos. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**2. NEMBA**

Mr. Owers gave a summary of the discussion at Trails meeting and shared that they motioned to have the public hearing on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Matt Bowser gave a summary of the changes the Trails Committee suggested based on the forestry report regarding snakes and turtles. Staff shared that Jim Oehler was available to come to the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to present on the impacts of trails on wildlife. Members discussed having the public hearing after that presentation.

Mr. Lewis motioned to start the next Conservation Commission meeting at 6:30 to have a joint presentation by Mr. Oehler with the Trails Committee, and having the public hearing for the NEMBA trail after. Ms. McGregor seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

**3. NHDES Items**

Nothing new to report.

**4. Reports**

*a. Trails –*

Mr. Lewis had no update since his site walk at the Richards property. His next step is the wildlife assessment. Mark Cheever is still scheduled to cut bittersweet with any volunteers that show up at the Batchelder Trail on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Shank shared that there was a complaint about clearing on the conservation land at Julie Drive. Ron said he would take a look.

*b. Forestry Report –*

The physical report was presented.

*c. Tree Committee –*

Councilor Brown shared that the sustainable tree/paving site walk was being scheduled. She reported that booths were set up at the Farmers Market to raise awareness about the shade value of trees. Also, the tree champion award is still planned in conjunction with a Chamber event in

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the fall.

- d. Local River Advisory Committees –*  
Nothing new to report.

**5. City Open Space & Easements**

Chair Tardiff asked about the easement monitoring report, which they typically see this time of year. Ms. Shank said she would follow up with Mr. Matson. Members discussed the success of the Sunflower Festival. The organizers think they had over 10K visitors. Councilor Brown asked about addressing the property for emergency service purposes. Mr. Lewis noted they should look into parking more closely next year, since it seemed they fully utilized the onsite parking lots. It wasn't clear if more shuttles would be needed if tenants of the complex objected next year, or if offsite parking areas would suffice.

**6. City Council / Planning Board**

Funds were appropriated for Phase 2 of the MRGT. Construction may not begin until Spring.

**7. Follow-up / On-going Items:**

- a. Follow up Trail items:*

- i. Request to memorialize Tom Walton at trails off Broad Cove Road.

Nothing has been heard from the family. This should be removed from the agenda for now.

- ii. Request to eliminate parking lot on Currier Road.

Chair Tardiff will follow up on this. She noted there is a camera on the City lot and asked if the resident put it up. Members felt the camera was inappropriate and should be removed.

- iii. Richards Community Forest Trail.

Nothing further.

- iv. Discontinued portion of District 5 Road.

This is in litigation.

- b. Conservation Easement Standard Templates*

Ms. Landry has a draft template. She will put out a poll to set up a time to discuss. The Sub-Committee has been working on this project. Ms. McGregor anticipates it being ready to present in October.

- c. Conservation Preserves*

Chris Kane created a map and table, that could be presented next month.

- d. MRGT*

Nothing further

- e. Naming policy / procedure*

Ms. McGregor volunteered to put something together. Ms. Shank will send her the Facilities Naming Policy as an example to get started.

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**8. Other Business**

- a.* Mr. Bladgen invited the Conservation Commission to participate a hike.
- b.* Ms. Shank presented a request from Sunfox Farms to remove some brush and small trees for a storage container to be located behind the retail complex. Members were not opposed.
- c.* Mr. Bladgen made several requests.
  - i.* He would like permission to put a log yard on a city parcel to aid in the removal of trees along the rail bed. Ms. Shank asked whether Conservation Commission has the authority to give permission. She will check with Legal. Mr. Owers motioned to allow the Friends of the Concord Sunapee Rail Trail to clear for a log yard, subject to city solicitor approving, Mr. Lewis seconded, all in favor, the motion passed.
  - ii.* He would like to add two parcels to the existing license agreement for continuation of the trail. He also noted several typos in the existing agreement that need to be fixed. Mr. Owers motioned to add the parcels to the license agreement, Ms. Landry seconded, all were in favor, motion passed.
  - iii.* He asked to have the area covered by the license agreement widened from 30 feet to the full 80 feet in width to allow for access to an area for parking on the adjacent private property. He has permission from the property owner to use their land if he puts up a fence. Mr. Owers motioned to amend the license agreement to cover the full width of the right of way subject to site plan approval, Ms. McGregor seconded, all were in favor, motion passed.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Owers made a motion, second by Ms. McGregor, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heather Shank  
City Planner