

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

City Hall, 2nd Fl Conference Rm, 41 Green St

Attendees: Rick Chormann, Mark Coen, Councilor Michele Horne, Emily Landry, Vice-Chair Jeff Lewis, Alternate Jim Owers, and Chair Kristine Tardiff

Absent: Katherine Healy, Tracey Lesser, and Alternate Allison McGregor

Staff: AnneMarie Skinner, City Planner
Kearsten O'Brien, Senior Planner

Public: Nicholas Holmes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tardiff at 7:01 p.m.

2. Minutes – Approve meeting minutes from November 13, 2024

Ms. Landry moved, Mr. Chormann seconded, to adopt the minutes with a correction to the motions for non-public session. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

3. New Business

- a. Jones & Beach Engineers, Inc., on behalf of Aaron LeClerc and Cara Scala, request conditional use permit approval for disturbance to wetland buffer to install a driveway at unaddressed Shaker Rd (Tax Map Lot 411Z 49) in the Open Space Residential (RO) District. (2024-074)

Ms. Skinner informed the Commission that the application will be continued to the January 7th meeting.

- b. Consider appointing Nicholas Holmes as a regular member of the Trails Subcommittee for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025, ending December 31, 2028.

Mr. Holmes expressed his interest in becoming a regular member of the Trails Subcommittee and gave the commission information regarding his background as to why he would be a good fit. Jim Owers moved, seconded by Emily Landry, to appoint Nicholas Holmes as a regular member of the Trails Subcommittee for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025, ending December 31, 2028.

Discussion.

Vice Chair Lewis said that he would like verification that there is not a requirement for the subcommittee to meet a potential new member before the commission decides to appoint the individual. Ms. Skinner read through the by-laws and stated that there is no such requirement. Mr. Lewis said that he thinks it would be a nice practice to have the subcommittee members meet potential applicants before being appointed. Mr. Lewis also asked if the alternate member was asked about moving up from an alternate to a regular member. Ms. Skinner stated that the alternate member

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would like to remain as an alternate.

All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Consider reappointing Fran Philippe as a regular member of the Trails Subcommittee for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2025, ending December 31, 2025.

Chair Tardiff noted that Fran Philippe requested to be re-appointed for a one-year term to the Trails Subcommittee. Motion made by Mr. Owers, seconded by Mr. Chormann, to re-appoint Fran Phillippe for a one-year term as a regular member on the Trails Subcommittee, beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Reports

- a. Trails Ranger Report – Subcommittee update – Jeff Lewis

Vice-Chair Lewis informed the Commission that Chair Tardiff read the proclamation for Gail Page, who resigned from the Trails Subcommittee after many years of service. Vice-Chair Lewis said that Mr. Jason Massa expressed interest in joining the Trails Subcommittee and was present at the meeting. Vice-Chair Lewis stated he hopes a resume and letter of interest will be received soon. Fran Philippe presented the completed Russell Pond sign and gave the sign to Ron Klemarczyk to install. Vice-Chair Lewis said there are some open spots for trail stewards. Vice-Chair Lewis said that in Carl Matson's report Mr. Matson noted that he had spoken to Mr. LeClerc during the monitoring. Mr. LeClerc lives directly across from Knowlton Woods parking lot and Mr. LeClerc had several complaints – the first being dogs off leash and running across the street and the second being the parking lot, which has become an early morning and late evening spot for what he suspects is drug activity. Mr. LeClerc asked if the City could set hours and post signs to curtail the nighttime activity. The Commission discussed possibly moving a trail camera to that location.

- b. Forestry

Three acres of the nine-acre field in Broad Cove Forest at the end of Runnels Road has been mowed to encourage milkweed regeneration. The log yard on the Penacook Lake watershed at the corner of Long Pond Road and Lakeview Drive was brush-hogged to keep it open for a potential staging area for emergency vehicles if ever needed in the future. Alternative options for the trails with Rossvie Farms were presented to the Planning Division. The timber harvest was completed at Country Hills Forest. The harvest produced 195,745 board feet of mostly white pine sawtimber; 36 cords of firewood, 325 tons of pine pulp, 31 tons of hemlock pulp, 513 tons of hardwood pulp, and 1,022 tons of woodchips which netted the city \$38,501.20. Mr. Owers asked what happens with the money from the timber sale. Ms. Skinner said that the money goes back into the forestry fund. There is a new infestation of the hemlock woolly adelgid. The forest should be monitored yearly for signs of mortality in those tree species. If large amounts of trees start to die, a salvage operation may be

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required.

c. Tree Subcommittee update

Mr. Chormann said that Ms. Fenstermacher presented the Tree Subcommittee with a map of the Clark Street and North Main Street areas and proposed tree locations for 2025. Mr. Chormann passed around the meeting minutes from last month's meeting for the Commission to review.

d. Local River Advisory Committees- Ms. Skinner stated there was no update.

e. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services- Ms. Skinner stated there was no update.

f. City Open Space and Easements- Ms. Skinner stated there was no update.

g. City Council/Planning Board

Councilor Horne informed the Commission that the Canal Street River Park will be opening on Monday and a few people from City Council will be attending along with some staff.

5. Old Business

a. Preservation Matrix

The Commission agreed to hold a special meeting during the morning to discuss the preservation matrix. The date of the meeting is to be determined.

b. Standard easement template

The Commission reviewed the final draft of the easement template. Ms. Landry questioned why there were two use purposes in the draft. Chair Tardiff will contact Ms. McGregor for an explanation. Minor changes were made to the draft easement template. Mr. Owers moved, seconded by Ms. Landry, to approve the easement template with the discussed changes. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Current Land Use Change Tax

a. 3rd Quarter 2024 and Parcels with Current Use and Parcels with Current Use- Chair Tardiff said that she is still working on this. Her goal is to get onto the City Council's agenda to discuss with them.

6. Staff updates on items

Ms. Skinner said that there was an email from Jim Arsenault, president of Up North Orienteers, a NH-centric not for profit orienteering club affiliated with Orienteering USA. Mr. Arsenault said that he is seeking permission to create an orienteering map of Broken Grounds trails, and a separate map of Batchelder Mills trail area to include the school district properties for both public orienteering events and potential school orienteering activities. Mr. Arsenault said in his email that he is happy to answer any questions or concerns the Commission may have. The Commission decided they would like to have Mr.

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Arsenault attend a meeting to discuss the proposal.

Ms. Skinner said that Mr. Matson reported a fence potentially on the former Emmons property, now owned by the City. DES holds the easement on the property. DES feels the fence needs to be removed. The Commission needs to ascertain whether or not it is on the City's property or not. The Commission asked that Ms. Skinner get a quote for a survey.

Ms. Skinner said that Mr. Klemarczyk did an assessment of the bridges on the Ross property, and the wood is still usable but would need to be taken out by ATV. The Commission would like to proceed with the removal of the two bridges and would like Ms. Skinner to ask Mr. Klemarczyk what needs to be done.

Ms. Skinner said that Mr. Klemarczyk reported that the surveyor provided an estimate of \$2,900 to survey the easement. The Commission would like for the survey to proceed.

Adjournment

Mr. Chormann moved, seconded by Ms. Landry, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kearsten O'Brien

Kearsten O'Brien

Senior Planner