



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

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Minutes Meeting on February 27, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners: Richard Mellor, Al Lefebvre, Rob Rubendall, Fred Rogers

Alternates: Del Friedman, Deni Dickler

Other Attendees: Michael Perrault, Mark Hower, Amber Dewey, Kari Reinking

OLD BUSINESS

- Natural Resources Mapping update – Friedman reported that he, Mellor and Rubendall met with Steve Lamonde of Moosewood Ecological for training on how to use Gaia GPS mapping tool. The training went well and the tool will be used walk and document the trails while walking at the various conservation land. The trails will then be another layer on the Natural Resources Mapping application.
- Conservationist of the Year update – Dickler reported that the Commission will have Brian Collieran at the March 27 meeting where he will make a presentation to the public on invasive plants. Prior to Collieran's talk and discussion, Drouin will present the 2024 Conservationist of the Year Award. Dickler is working on news announcement about the presentation and award.
- Conservation Land & Related
Trail Stewards update – Rubendall explained his postings to recruit Trail Stewards for each of the conservation lands. So far, he has five volunteers to serve as Trail Stewards although there were three new volunteers in the audience. Trail Stewards will be recorded as Conservation Corps members with a separate email designation.

NEW BUSINESS

- Earth Day at Cathedral of the Pines, April 26 – Lefebvre reported that there are now seven towns including Rindge that will attend and participate in Earth Day celebrations at the Cathedral. Tom Hsu of the Jaffrey Conservation Commission is organizing the day and will convene a planning meeting with a representative from each participating commission. Presently the following towns will participate in event: Rindge, Jaffrey, Dublin, Peterborough, Troy, Marlborough and Stoddard.
- UNH Wetlands Classification Workshop – Saturday June 14 (9:00 – 3:30), Portsmouth. Members interested should sign-up. The Planning Director has indicated an interest in attending if schedule permits.
- Conservation Commission website and story maps – Mellor explained the positives use of story maps for the public. The maps would be incorporated into the Natural Resources Mapping initiative. He thinks it will provide more information. The Commission had questions about cost and implementation timing. The Commission viewed different Commission Commissions' story maps on the large screen in the room which was very helpful. The Commission thought story maps was a positive suggestion but as it had a lot on its 2025 agenda, decided to put the project on track for 2026. There is online training available for interested members at about \$59 each which might be helpful to learn how to develop story maps and guide the path to future implementation. Rubendall motioned and Rogers seconded to spend up to \$200 for training for those who wanted to take the course.
- Cheshire County Conservation District – Mellor reported that the district has a grant to assess turtle crossings in the district this summer.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

- NH Forests & Lands notice of timber harvest at Annett State Forest along Annett Road. Reviewed by the Commission.
- NH DES 2019-02768 Request for Enforcement, Map 3 Lot 43, Goddard Rd., Jamison Van Dyke. Reviewed by the Commission.

- Forrestall Road PURD – Mellor reported that this new development was reviewed for its road only and still needs a special exception for frontage.

Account Approvals & Updates

Lefebvre reported that the Commission had received an invoice for its annual membership in the NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists. Mellor motioned with Rogers seconding to expend \$30 for the membership. The Commission approved the motion.

Upcoming Events

March 27 – Presentation of 2024 Conservationist of the Year Award and presentation on invasive plants.

April 26 - Earth Day Event at Cathedral of the Pines

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES for February 10, 2025

Rogers moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2025 with changes noted by Commission. Motion seconded by Rubendall. The Commission voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING: March 10, 2025

Schedule of 2025 Meetings: March 27 (Presentations at Rec Ctr), April 14 & 24 (26 Earth Day at Cathedral), May 12 & 22, June 9 & 26, July 14 & 24, August 11 & 28, Sept. 8 & 25, Oct. 13 & 23, Nov. 10, Dec. 8.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm

Minutes recorded by Al Lefebvre