

**Barrington Conservation Commission
February 8, 2024 7:00 p.m.**

IN PERSON LOCATION: Town of Barrington (NEW TOWN HALL) 4 Signature Drive
(1/4-mile North of the Old Town Hall) Barrington, NH 03825

Join Teams

Barrington Conservation Commission Meeting – Virtual Access

Meeting Access

Remote Meeting Participation

Video: barrington.nh.gov/ccmeeting

Call: [+1 603-664-0240](tel:+16036640240) (one-click link)

Conference ID: 666 455 706#

MEMBERS PRESENT

Doug Bogen, Chair
Gary Imbrie
Paul Panish
Jack Gale, Vice Chair/Treasurer
Ken Grossman (via remote)
Anne Melvin, alternate

ABSENT

Rob Gibson, Selectboard liaison
Dan Cassidy, alternate
Scott Heron, alternate
Charlie Tatham, alternate
Jenny Stuart, alternate

Call to order Barrington Conservation Commission (BCC) Chair Doug Bogen called the meeting of February 8, 2024 to order at 7:01.

Delegation of voting members Chair Doug Bogen confirmed the presence of members as above.

Minutes review and approval The minutes of January 25, 2024 were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report (Jack Gale) QTR 4 LUCT transfer of \$46,446.61 on 1/11 and interest of \$1,423.81 on 1/25. Balance is \$549,776.11.

Guest: Mark West, West Environmental

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

- **Richardson Pond Eco Study** Mark West (WestEnvironmental) presented a draft proposal for an ecological assessment of the Richardson Pond Dam Removal. The scope of services includes: assess the current wildlife and plant species present on the site that would be impacted by the dam removal; consult the NH Fish and Game biologists

regarding the potential impact to the American Eel, Blanding's Turtle, Spotted Turtle and Wood Turtle. This would include preparing all consultation documents required by the NH F&G and a meeting; consult NHDES staff regarding regulatory requirements for dam removal; assess how the lower water levels would impact the purposes of the conservation easement; assess impacts to functions and values determined in the Prime Wetland Evaluation; assess the impact of the quality and quantity of the sustainable yield of groundwater and surface water resources on and under the property; assess the impact on the pond and potential impact to downstream water resources; assess the impact to scenic enjoyment of the property for public users; prepare assessment report; attend meeting to present results.

Mark mentioned three main issues to consider for the dam removal. One is that Fish and Game does not want to see a taking of rare, threatened, or endangered species (Blanding's Turtle, Spotted Turtle, American Eel, Wood Turtle). There is a question of F&G considering the drainage of a this system a major impact to the species and thus not permitting a dam removal. Another issue is that the pond is on conservation land, and it is important to consider the language of the easement. A third issue is the impact of having the dam removed and creating a different habitat type in a prime wetland.

As part of the assessment Mark would subcontract a hydro-geologist. Following discussion it was decided that Mark would get a final estimate of the cost of this subcontract to be included in his estimate, and this estimate will be sent to Doug. **Ken Grossman made a motion to authorize the CC Chair to approve the WestEnvironmental proposal not to exceed \$14,800 and to submit this proposal to the Selectboard. Gary seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.**

- Lakeview Estates Trail Gary presented a case for property owners at Lakeview Estates to be able to access their shoreline property at Nippo Pond via minimal impact trails through an easement. Gary had earlier suggested to the property owners that they could submit a plan to the CC showing a trail design including material used. DES guidelines for the shoreline (SP-5 Vegetation Management for Water Quality) allow for paths as long as vegetation removal is limited and appropriate trail cover is used. Mr. Dussol submitted a plan, using wood chips on the path, which follows the DES guidelines. **Gary made a motion to allow Richard Dussol to make a wood chip path, not to exceed 6 feet in width, to allow access to Nippo Pond. Paul seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.**
- Coot Farm 243,244&230-MultiLots-23-Design (Owner: Carla Williams) The PB has a continuation of the hearing. Doug commented that the Coot farm land is last remaining big parcel of unfragmented town land not protected by easement. Doug will approach Duane Hyde (SELT) to have more conversation about conservation of this parcel.
- Young Road project The developer has not shown a plan for the holding of open land/community space in the conservation land. CC members suggested it might be good to have the land protected with more than a deed restriction.
- Monitoring Gary shared that he has scheduled 16 monitoring walks starting in April and going thru June. Monitoring walks will start up again in late September.
- Richardson Dam funding To be voted on as Warrant article #28.
- Gerrior Rd. re-design

- Purchase of lots 248-0001 and 248-0002 to expand Town Forest Paul will let the Lands Committee know that the CC is interested in the purchase of the parcels, but no purchase price was set at this time. It was mentioned that the Lands Committee could point out to the seller(s) that there would be no commission fee, etc.
- Endorsement by a committee **Jack made a motion to use the BCC facebook page to cross promote and endorse the Community Power Aggregation Plan (warrant article #39) for its potential environmental benefit. Gary seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.**

CASES BEFORE THE PLANNING BOARD

New Cases due February 14, 2024, for March 5, 2024

Public Concerns

ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Lands Committee, Trails Committee *A full moon hike and an eclipse hike are being planned,*
Lake Associations

B. Isinglass River, Oyster River, and Lamprey River Local Advisory Committees.

Sightings reported were chipmunks, red squirrels, bluebirds, a pileated woodpecker, and Anne's unidentified "little gray ball" which scurried away. Gary mentioned the weekend Audubon midwinter bird count.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Lenzi