

Barrington Conservation Commission
June 23, 2022 7:00 p.m.
IN PERSON LOCATION: Early Childhood Learning Center
77 Ramsdell Lane
Barrington, NH 03825

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89335400812?pwd=QzR5cjNIZWRMZVU1c1N5dExCaXBpQT09>

Meeting ID: 893 3540 0812

Passcode: 299006

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,89335400812#,,, *299006# US (New York)

+13017158592,,89335400812#,,, *299006#

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ken Grossman, Chairman
Doug Bogen, Vice Chair
Jack Gale, Treasurer
Rob Gibson, Selectboard liaison
Dan Cassidy
Gary Imbrie, alternate
Anne Melvin, alternate

ABSENT

Scott Heron, alternate
Jenny Stuart
Charlie Tatham, alternate

Call to order Barrington Conservation Commission (BCC) Chair Ken Grossman called the meeting of June 23, 2022 to order at 7:02.

Delegation of voting members Chair Ken Grossman confirmed the presence of members as above with Anne serving as a voting member.

GUEST: Tom Ballesterio, Patrick Skahan

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The minutes of May 26, 2022 were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report (Jack Gale)

May 31 Balance	\$187,901.65
Interest	\$ 17.22
Current Balance	\$187,918.87

Jack Gale made a motion to pay \$525.00 annual dues to NHACC. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.

Doug reported that the grant for \$166,000 has been approved for the Goodwill Amendment. He expects that this will be received in July or August.

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

- Oyster River culvert (Topaz Drive) Tom Ballestero attended to thank the CC for its previous letter of support for this project and to keep the Commission abreast of developments. Mr. Ballestero reported that the undersized culvert has failed twice and will be replaced with a prefabricated steel bridge with a width of 32 feet. This design allows passage for aquatic organisms and riparian animals. Two small temporary box culverts will be installed during construction for ingress and egress at Emerald Acres. Mr. Ballestero expects that the project will go out to bid in January with construction starting next summer.
- Bear baiting at SATWaSR Patrick Skahan was present to seek owner (town of Barrington) approval for a bear baiting stand on SATWaSR. Mr. Skahan reviewed the rules and procedures for baiting and noted that these are set and monitored by Fish and Game. Baiting season is Sept. 1 – Sept. 28, and Mr. Skahan stated that an advantage to baiting is that one can be selective as to which bears are taken. He also noted that the Fish and Game management plan for Southeast NH is to decrease the bear population. Ken will get in touch with the easement holder, SPNHF, for its input into allowing baiting. This will be discussed and decided at the next CC meeting.
- Clarification of criteria for conserving special places (Jack) It was decided to add preserving/encouraging agricultural value to the conservation priorities listing. (see criteria below)
- Intent to cuts Forestry work being done on the Newhall easement prompted Ken to check if there is a stewardship plan in place. The owners provided Ken with the plan. Members discussed the approval process for intent to cut notices and the role of the CC. Ken mentioned that owner contact is important when monitoring is done so that the CC can be informed about any anticipated forestry work. He suggested that a generic letter be sent to all easement owners requesting that the CC be informed if forestry work is being planned.
Intent to cuts: Attached
Map 223, Lots 24 and 26 (John O'Neil)
Map 260, Lot 7 (Linda Kohrs & Susan Johnson)
Map 234, Lot 57-2 (Marilyn E. Lemos Trustee)
Map 234, Lot 57 (Mark J. Lemos)
- Boraduvchuk easement It was brought up that the Boraduvchuk property (with easement) could possibly be coming up for sale in the near future. The group discussed its potential agricultural use, and it was suggested that SELT be contacted regarding the possible sale.
- Knecht easement Ken will contact Duane Hyde about the progress on Fred Knecht conservation easement.
- Co-occurrence maps It came to the attention of the CC that there are two different co-occurrence maps, and the one that has been posted on the town website does not look like the one the CC uses. It has been decided to put a link on the town website to the co-occurrence map used by the CC, with notes from the maps inception and explanations for its use.
- Wetlands and buffers
- Master Plan Doug reported that he attended the introductory meeting for the master plan. Strafford Regional Planning is involved and this will be a year long process.
- Ayer's Lake project Marc Moreau responded in writing to all the points raised in the Ayers Lake proposal, and many of the suggested improvements have already been implemented. Dan and Ken expressed appreciation for Mr. Moreau's prompt response to the proposal and for the work already completed by the highway department.
- Richardson Dam
- Monitoring

CASES BEFORE THE PLANNING BOARD

None at this time

Public Concerns

ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Lands Committee, Trails Committee; Lake Associations Jack shared that the Trails Committee would like to have a banner for the upcoming tricentennial parade. **Jack made a motion that the Conservation Commission expend \$100.00 for the purchase of a trails banner. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.**

Land Use Committee Rob mentioned that the Land Use Committee is still interested in adding a town owned parcel to the Town Forest. He also brought up the potential conservation of a parcel off Stagecoach Road (near Critchett place).

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

Sightings were a woodchuck, indigo buntings, a flock of cedar waxwings, goldfinch, and an unsuccessful loon nesting on Ayers Lake.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Lenzi

The Barrington Conservation Commission uses a variety of criteria in determining to encourage the town to seek a conservation interest in open space property. The commission would like these to not simply be the province of the Commission, but of the Town of Barrington's Master Plan.

Our general framework is set by our by-laws (Revised 10 Feb 2022) Section 4, which state that the Commission shall create a Natural Resources Inventory with "maps and charts of all open space (areas mostly unchanged by human habitation) aesthetic areas (open or natural areas that are of significant beauty) and ecologically significant areas (places which help maintain the natural life of the area), streams pond and wetlands." And: "recommend conservation plans or programs for the protection, development, or better utilization of natural areas...through ownership...conservation easement...or deed restriction."

Further specification of our criteria occurs through "co-occurrence" mapping the commission contracted with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) in 2019, which uses ranked natural resource criteria to rate possible areas of conservation interest. They are:

- A. valuable soils,
- B. drinking water resource areas
- C. wetlands
- D. wildlife
- E. connectivity to existing conserved land
- F. other surface and groundwater resources (ponds, streams, aquifers)
- G. climate change resiliency

As each item is mapped and layered, the darkness of an area of the resulting map provides a visual clue as to its conservation value and delineated five opportunity zones marked on the co-occurrence map.

The commission gives priority to lands that provide public access for recreational opportunities for residents and others, including trails for hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, and fishing. We add value to spaces of high aesthetic character, agricultural potential or historic significance. As Barrington has significant levels of streams, ponds and wetlands, the commission is very concerned with ensuring water quality and protection from flooding and extreme weather damage. We aim, in general, to prevent degradation of natural resources.

The Commission is mindful of stewardship costs and is wary of property with existing potential costly problems, such as existing structures, hazards, or poor access.

The Commission has worked closely with nonprofits such as The Southeast Land Trust (SELT), The Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF), The Natural Resources and Conservations Service (NRCS) and others. Each of these organizations has their own criteria, generally compatible with ours.