

Litchfield Conservation Commission
April 1, 2021
Litchfield Town Hall, 2 Liberty Way

Minutes approved 8/5/21

In attendance: Joan McKibben, Tom Levesque, Roger St. Laurent, Matt Lepore, Steve Webber, Harry Menzigan, Marion Godzik (alternate), Andrew Thompson (Secretary, alternate), John Curtin (alternate), Dianne Plansky (alternate).

Members absent: Michael Croteau

(7:00) Joan calls the meeting to order in the large conference room. Role call is called for. Member role call commences. Joan asks if there are any non-agenda items from the public or commission members, no public comments. Tom Levesque reads his resignation letter. Resignation request comes from the board of Selectmen.

(7:03) Andrew and Marion are appointed voting members.

(7:04) Recreation Commission members have been invited to this meeting to discuss Parker Park and Darrah Pond. Andy Collins, Andrew Ruggles, ??Chris Burns?? are present. Parker park is not the responsibility of the Conservation Commission. It falls under the Recreation Commission. Darrah Pond has a native milfoil issue. It was treated in July 2014 and was surveyed in 2019. What needs to be decided is what will Darrah pond be used for in the future. The Recreation commission still needs to make a decision on if to let it go or to treat it to make it swimmable. The treatment in 2019 was estimated to be \$9800 for the first treatment. SOLitude Lake Management company (<https://www.solitudelakemanagement.com/>) will be contacted to see if they can do a presentation. Funds for the treatment never made it to a warrant article because there was no direction on what was wanting to be done with the pond.

Joan asks about how the new trails are coming. The trails crew came to the Recreation Commission to get approval. Joan also brings up the community garden idea next to Parker Park to the Recreation Commission. They are interested in learning more about it and would like to be involved if possible. Fishing derby is discussed for spring of 2022.

(7:13) Election of officers is moved to be next in the agenda. Joan passes out the CC bylaws. Roger motions for Joan to be nominated for chairmen. Joan respectfully declines. Joan makes a motion for Matt to be nominated for chairmen and Marion seconded. Matt abstains. Vote is 6-0-1.

Steve motions for Micheal Croteau to be nominated for Vice Chair and Matt seconds. Joan brings up the fact that he isn't present and wouldn't be able to decline. Roger asks if Joan would entertain being the Vice Chair and she agrees. Roger then motions for Joan to be

nominated for Vice Chair and Marion seconds. First motion is for Michael for Vice Chair. Vote is 2-5-0, defeated. Second motion for Joan for Vice Chair. Vote is 5-1-1, passed.

Marion motions for Andrew Thompson to be nominated for Secretary and Roger seconds. Diane objects to the nomination of Andrew because he is an Alternate Member of the CC. Joan clarifies that it is allowed for an alternate member to be Secretary. The responsibilities of the Secretary are read out and discussed. Vote is 4-2-1, passed.

(7:22) Matt takes over the meeting as the new Chairman. Jason Brennen is introduced for an Alternate Position to the Conservation Commission. He introduces himself. He has been in the town for over 20 years and has served the town on different boards. For his professional work he provides technology services. He does community outreach like the beautification project and was involved with the Moores Falls fence along the road. Joan motions to add Jason to the CC as an Alternate and Harry seconded the motion. The vote is 7-0-0, passes.

(7:27) Andrew describes the pricing of the different licencing for the ArcGIS Online mapping program. He advises to purchase 3 different levels. They are a Viewer, Field Worker, and GIS Professional. The total would cost \$125. Jason asks if the cost is for personal use or commercial use. The licensing is reduced under the ESRI Conservation Program which falls under the commercial use category. Joan motions to approve of the purchase of the licences for the \$125 and Steve seconded the motion. The vote is 7-0-0, passes.

(7:34) Moores Falls has several items to be discussed. First was the Whip Poor Will study. The NRCS and University of MA want to do the study there because of the NE cottontail program that Moores Falls was involved in the past. They will contact the CC 24hrs before they go out and deploy any equipment.

The historic signs need repairs due to vandalism. Matt discovered that one of the signs was ripped from the post. He found it in a stream nearby. Joan talked to the Litchfield Police department and said the best thing to do will be to get cameras down there. Matt said he can deploy them.

National Grid will relocate the 8 trees that were planted by the transmission line. They are too close to the wires. The CC needs to decide where to move them too. The suggestion is to move them along the property line.

Matt had an encounter with a gentleman that was completely undressed at Moores Falls. The police were called and talked to the man.

(7:41) Joan talks about the ??Stabile?? lot access. The easement is for CC members to access the property. The property is very wet and so there is really no good access to the property. The proposed alternative access is by unit 4. Diane will contact the Representative of Old Stage Crossing to see what they would like to do. In order to change the easement they would have to pay for the legal fees.

(7:50) Diane shows slides of the proposed community garden location. There is a pipe already established at the site for irrigation. It is located off of 3A and abuts Parker Park. Monadnock Community Trust owns the land. The easement land use is for agricultural, open space and

trails. It is 1.6 acres with a gate access from the road. The field is organic and is currently used for grazing. Mr. Normanton, and Whitney Carpenter, Monadnock Community Land Trust, want it for the community garden. There are some action steps that need to be completed.

- Provide proposal to land owners
- Form the community group
- Develop a formal plan
- Propose tithe to the food pantry

Some additional uses could be:

- School participation like class activities could be part of the use
- Install play area for kids
- Provide picnic tables

McQuestin is interested in providing plants. There are volunteers for plowing the field. The project could be overseen by both the CC and Recreation department.

Marion motioned to move forward with the planning of the project and Harry seconded. Vote is 7-0-0.

(8:10) Matt reads out the poll results from the Litchfield Mirror online news paper. The poll was looking to see what educational programs could be provided by the CC. There were 7 different options: Guided walks, information on wildlife, historic site information, information about wetlands, volunteer opportunities, new trail maps and hiking recommendations.

Results: 8 for guided walks, 6 for information on wildlife, 19 votes for historic site information, 6 for wetland information, 4 for volunteer opportunities, 12 for new trail maps, and 17 for hiking recommendations. The most interest was for historic information. The CC could look where to get more historical information. Some of the sites that could be looked at are the Muster Field and Moores Falls.

(8:14) Joan talks about the Natural Resource Inventory report. The example the CC can go by is Amherst NH. NRPC could help out with the report for \$4,500. A private firm would cost about \$8,500. Joan will get the old report to the members for review. Joan will see if she can get Jay Minkarah from NRPC to join the next meeting.

(8:19) Clean up on Route 3A will be done between Pinecrest and Hillcrest on April 17 at 8:30am at the Library parking lot. Police escort will be requested and will be posted as a public meeting. Rain date will be April 24th.

(8:23) Map 15 Lot 14-15 is offered to the CC for sale. The offer is for the front part of the parcel. Joan shows the CC where the parcel is located on the tax map. Shown on the youtube video at runtime 1:25:50. The offer is for \$125,000 for the property. Marion makes a motion to not buy the property and Roger seconded the motion. Vote is 7-0-0, passes.

(8:31) Map 15-7-1 is offered to the CC for sale. There is no price offered. The lot is 2.73 acres and would connect with Charles Bancroft Highway. Diane motions to pursue how much the owner wants to sell the property for and Steve seconded the motion. Vote is 7-0-0, passes.

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(8:35) Water withdrawal for commercial use. There is concern that commercial businesses are withdrawing water from the wetland at the corner of Hillcrest and Pinecrest. The CC would like to bring it to the BOS to adopt an ordinance similar to the language like in the Londonderry ordinance for water withdrawals. Steve will bring it to the BOS.

(8:43) Steve clarified that the CC isn't part of the restriction for trails and trail markings on CC land. It only involves other town properties. He will send an official email detailing the provisions.

(8:45) March meeting notes. Change the date to the correct meeting date of March 4th. Take off the approved minutes date. Spelling name correction to Doughaty. Change the acres on the last line to 39 acres. Add John and Marion to the attendees list. Roger motions to accept and Harry 2nds. Steve abstains. Vote: 6-0-1.

(8:03) Roger reads the rainfall report. There was 2.39in of rain. Normal is usually 5.7in.

(8:53) Reminder that the ticks are out now.

(8:54) Matt took a walk on Lonely Fort Trail. He saw a ton of wildlife. Joan stopped at Chase Brook. We have duck boxes that can be deployed on our properties.

John asks what is the official process of getting fish records in NH. Harry suggests that he can check with NH Fish and Game.

(8:55) Motion to go to non-public RSA-91-A:3,II(d). Steve motions to go to non-public and Marion seconded. Roll Call of voting members, 7-0-0.

(9:18) Roger motions to adjourn, Marion seconded, Vote: 7-0-0.

Minutes Recorded by
Andrew Thompson