



## Litchfield Conservation Commission

Litchfield Town Hall, 2 Liberty Way

Meeting Minutes: November 4, 2021

Minutes Approved \_\_\_12/2/2021\_\_\_

### 1. In Attendance

**Members Present:** Matt Lepore-Chair, Kevin Lynch-Selectmans Rep, Harry Menzigian-Member, Dianne Plansky-Secretary, Jayson Brennen-Member, Luanna Vollmer-Alternate, Joan McKibben-Vice Chair, Michael Croteau-Member

**Members Absent:** Andrew Thompson-Alternate, Jack Curtin-Alternate

### 2. Call to Order

Chairman Matt Lepore calls the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

### 3. Public Non-Agenda Business

6:31-Jayson Brennon observed people working across the river from the Muster field and he stalked them and met Mike Drouin online. Mike is on the Merrimack Con Com and chair of the Sklar Park project right across from our Muster Field. Mike discussed some of the plans for the park-expanding parking, ordering picnic tables, cleaning up to allow nature to come back in.

### 4. New Business

- A) **Lower Merrimack River Corridor (Nrpc)-Emma Rearick(6:42pm)**-In 2008 there was a plan done to protect the corridor of the river from the north end of Litchfield through Merrimack, Hudson and through to the Mass border from Nashua. This plan is being rewritten using grant money that will expire in May 2022. Emma is visiting the con-coms for each of these towns to gather info on changes that have occurred since it was written in 2008. She hopes to do a survey that shows how the river is accessed, acquire new data regarding ramps, housing pfoas. The goal is to make a more concise document that is usable. Jay brought up the river bank erosion in Litchfield, Dianne mentioned being able to use this product to acquire grants.

- B) **Conservation Fund Cap-Matt** (6:58pm)-Troy has asked to get an actual figure from board to raise Con Com Account for a warrant article.

**Motion: Harry-Raise the balance allowed of Con Com Account to \$2.5 Million**

**2<sup>nd</sup>:Joan**

Vote 6-0-1 Kevin abstained Motion passes.

- C) **Excess Conservation funds proposed warrant article -Matt (7:02)**-There is a balance between 30,000 and 40,000 that went over the balance allowed in the con com account. This money needs to be moved by warrant article. 3 options, turn over for use in general fund, put in the farm preservation fund controlled by the selectman or 3 start a revolving account.

**Motion:Harry-Move the money to the farm preservation fund.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Joan**

**4-3-0 for Matt Joan Harry Michael against Dianne, Jay and Kevin**

**Motion passed.**

- D) **Muster field upkeep-Jayson and Matt-** (7:22pm)-Matt would like to get a historical marker from the state for that area. Quickest way is to do by popular incentive. Raise the money locally. Jay brought pictures of the latest volunteer group clearing out the Muster field. He showed some historical views of the field completely overrun by bittersweet as well as the new cleared out areas as well as a small area that still needs to be completed. Also showed an area Matt had said he was putting a trail.

- E) **Pole transfer Map 12 lot 31-Joan**-Mrs Berg came to see Joan regarding eversource powers need to move a pole onto an area that is slightly on a conservation easement.

**Motion:Kevin-We accept the movement of the pole as proposed by eversource on Map 12 lot 31.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Harry**

**Vote 7-0-0 motion passed.**

- F) **Flood Resiliency grant-Jayson-(7:36)** Jayson found a grant to stabilize the river bank from erosion near the muster field. He has contacted the agency and will be further pursuing the grant to see if it would be possible to apply to that area. More info to follow.

## 5. Old Business

- A) **Town Trailer-Matt-(7:38)**-We now own the town trailer. It needs some work but will be handy to have at sites.
- B) **Fishing Derby update-Harry-(7:41pm)**-Harry has decided that Parker Park is the best location for the fishing derby. Joan approached Wilson Farms for permission for some parking. Harry will go to Rec meeting to get permission to use Parker Park. Dianne will discuss running into land trust land.
- C) **Proposed Tractor acquisition-Jay, Steve Gannon-(7:55)** Steve Gannon joined us from Rec to say that Rec has voted to share the expense of the tractor with Conservation. The model that is approved by them is a Compact tractor that will immediately have a shovel and belly mower. Jay showed pics of the models they have been looking at after much discussion a motion was made.

**Motion: Kevin: put together a proposal to bring to selectman using up to \$15,000 in funds from each rec and conservation to purchase a compact tractor for use by both boards subject to understanding of who can use and insurance by the selectman.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dianne**

**6-1-0 Matt against. Motion passed.**

- D) **Property inspections-Matt (8:10)** inspections are not complete. Matt will send an email out regarding getting together with dates and locations.
- E) **Land Management Matt (8:16)**-Discussion regarding where decisions are made and Matt is concerned with liabilities.
- F) **Stage Crossing-Matt (8:26)** New president of stage crossing has asked for December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to finalize the easement.

### a. Other Business

- i. Next meeting December 2, 2021 at 630
- ii. **Weather Matt (8:36pm)**
  - Back log on mounting equipment for our weather station.
  - Garden Drive station
  - High 77 deg
  - Low 35 deg

Precipitation of 4.4"

Wind speed high of 43-46 mph

**iii clean up day-Joan(8:38) 20<sup>th</sup> of November 9 am at Town hall. Harry, Matt, Luanna, Jay and Dianne**

**iv poison at GMS field along 3a being investigated by superintendent.**

**v. Jay-Thank you to Tom Schofield for purchase of really nice chain saw, Thank you to Doug Adams for Trail signs.**

**Would like to have goal of 2 programs for public for next year such as bird watching.**

**PUBLIC INPUT – NONE**

**PRIOR MONTH MINUTES**

**(8:44) Harry Motion to accept October minutes**

**Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Approved 6-0-1 Michael abstained as not there**

**Harry Motion to accept October non public minutes**

**Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Approved 5-0-2 michael and Joan abstained**

## **Adjourn**

**8:52 Motion to adjourn meeting Dianne**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Harry**

**Roll call vote 7-0-0**

Respectfully submitted by

Dianne Plansky  
Secretary