

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2023**

The February monthly meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at **6:30 PM** at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH.

Present: Chairman, Nat Lucy; Vice Chairman, Dan Lucy; Rob Adair (via phone); Peter Minnich; Larry Huemmler; and Recording Secretary, Jacqueline White.

Absent: Treasurer, Linda Kearney; Selectmen's Representative, David Weathers.

Also Attending: Lynn Lyman; Dawn Brauel; Tim Nolin, Forest Land Improvement.

1. Approval of the Minutes for January 11, 2023:

Mr. Nat Lucy asked for a motion to accept the January 11, 2023 minutes. Mr. Peter Minnich noted one correction on page 3, paragraph 3, line 6 should read "...he wouldn't dig up the root mat..." Mr. Peter Minnich made a motion to accept the January 11, 2023 minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Dan Lucy. Motion passed (3-0-1) with Mr. Larry Huemmler abstaining.

2. Cranmore Culvert Wetlands Application:

The Commission discussed the wetlands application for a culvert replacement at Cranmore. The application including a map were available to review at the meeting. No action taken.

3. Public Comment:

Ms. Lynn Lyman and Ms. Dawn Brauel came before the Commission to discuss the parcel of land (PID: 203-41) that the Town is giving to the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust. Ms. Lyman shared that Ms. Brauel had contacted her as a Kearsarge Precinct Commissioner to discuss building on her property on Crown Ridge Road in the beginning of January. Ms. Lyman reached out to Jamel Torres, Planning Director and found out the property is in the Wetland Watershed Protection Overlay District. Because of this, it may not be a buildable lot. Ms. Brauel heard the Town was giving away the property (which abuts hers) and contacted the Town. Ms. Lyman asked why all the abutters of the Town land were not notified. The Board of Selectmen made a decision to give the land away to the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust and to not auction it. Ms. Lyman expressed disappointment with how the Town handle the situation.

Mr. Nat Lucy explained that the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust came to the Commission and asked for an agreement for the Land Trust to maintain the Town's land at the cost of \$2,000 a year. Mr. Lucy said the Commission decided that was not a good use of their funds and voted to make a suggestion to the Board of Selectmen to gift the parcel of land to the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust.

Ms. Lynn Lyman asked how the Town can gift the land and not auction it off. Mr. Nat Lucy stated he would need to check with David Weathers, Selectmen's Representative, but unfortunately, he could not attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Tim Nolin with Forest Land Improvement came before the Commission to ask about the Forestry Budget for next year. Mr. Nolin asked the Commission if there are any plans for anything in particular beyond the normal stuff. Mr. Nolin said he will prepare a budget for the March meeting.

Mr. Tim Nolin said he would like to add into the budget the Green Hills Common Land (PID: 225-34) that was recently discovered the Town owns. The lot is fifty (50) acres and Mr. Nolin suggested doing a report and boundary maintenance and adding that work into the budget.

Mr. Larry Huemmler asked if this land is next to the East Conway Common Lands. Mr. Tim Nolin answered in the negative, and said it is a little further away to the east and abuts land owned by Tin Mountain, it is landlocked, but almost fronts on Green Hill Road, north of Green Thumb Farms.

Mr. Rob Adair asked Mr. Tim Nolin to keep in mind the parking expansion project at Marshall and Pudding Pond. Mr. Adair spoke with Andrew Smith, Public Works Director to keep the Conservation in mind for fill from road projects. Mr. Nat Lucy asked will either of the expansions encroach wetlands? Mr. Adair answered no and we just need to bring the grade up a little bit. Mr. Adair suggests walking the parking areas with Mr. Nolin after the snow melts.

3. Reports & Other Business:

A. Nomination of Alternates

Mr. Dan Lucy said we have two open slots for Alternates. Mr. Nat Lucy said Mr. Rob Adair has nominated Corbett Tulip.

Mr. Nat Lucy made motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to appoint Mr. Corbett Tulip as an Alternate Member for a three-year term; seconded by Mr. Larry Huemmler. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Mr. Peter Minnich said when he started with the Commission, he saw it as an ad in the paper. Ms. Jackie White agreed to send a Memo to the Board of Selectmen requesting for an ad to be placed in the paper for the open Alternate position.

B. Hurricane zone trail planning – Further Discussion

Mr. Nat Lucy said at the last meeting we had a presentation on Hurricane Zone Trail Planning by Mr. Corbett Tulip of Tulip Trails and Mr. Mike LeBlanc with Ride NoCo. Mr. Lucy said after the presentation it was suggested by Mr. Peter Minnich that we speak amongst ourselves about the trail system.

Mr. Dan Lucy said his concern was about advertising the trail system or do we have plenty of traffic on the trails now. Mr. Peter Minnich said his concern is that the trails that are being improved or constructed are more skewed towards down-hill use. Mr. Minnich said the problem is that down-hillers are not the only bikers using the trails and we are giving Ride NoCo the permission to build or maintain trails that are for a very narrow selection of bikers/users. Mr. Minnich said he is concerned that we are approving a general expansion of just one kind of mountain biking.

Mr. Rob Adair said we have only approved work on existing trails to make them more sustainable and improve the flow. Mr. Adair stated we are not adding to the network of trails. Mr. Adair said when they did a survey years ago, many of the comments received were that we needed more expert trails and more beginners' trails. Mr. Adair stated these trails we are discussing would be considered expert trails. As a result of the feedback from the survey, we built out a few trails. Marshall Area is considered the premier beginner's area for biking. Mr. Adair stated he feels we did a good job of balancing all types of biking trails for the area. Mr. Nat Lucy agrees with Rob's statement.

There was further discussion on the history of conservation lands, walking, and biking trails.

Mr. Rob Adair stated he does have concerns with the level of maintenance of trails provided by Ride NoCo compared to NEMBA's maintenance that was done on a regular basis. Mr. Adair stated he would not be in favor of approving the construction of new trails until they show that their organization has the capacity to maintain the trails that already exist.

There was a brief discussion on which area of Town NEMBA is responsible for trail maintenance and which area Ride NoCo is responsible for.

Mr. Nat Lucy said part of the conditional approval given to Ride NoCo last month was to have further discussion on the proposal. Mr. Nat Lucy asked the Commission if that was enough of a discussion at the moment. Mr. Peter Minnich answered in the affirmative. Mr. Dan Lucy said when we walk the trails, we might have more discussion.

C. Town gifting PID: 203-41 to USVLT: Discussed during public comment.

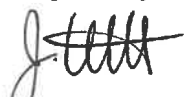
D. Selectmen's Report: None.

E. Member Roundtable: None.

Next Meeting: The next CCC meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH.

Adjourn: Mr. Dan Lucy made a motion to adjourn at 7:23 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Nat Lucy. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Jacqueline White
Recording Secretary