

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 11, 2023**

The October 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; Peter Minnich; Corbett Tulip; Paul Getchell; and Recording Secretary, Jacqueline White.

Absent: Selectmen’s Representative, David Weathers; Treasurer, Linda Kearney; Larry Huemmler.

Also Attending: Tim Nolin, Forest Land Improvement.

1. Approval of the Minutes for September 13, 2023:

Mr. Rob Adair said there is one edit on page three, in the second paragraph “pole” should be spelled “poll”.

Mr. Paul Getchell made a motion to accept the September 13, 2023 minutes as amended; seconded by Mr. Peter Minnich. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports & Other Business:

A. Selectmen’s Report:

Ms. Jacqueline White said that Mr. David Weathers asked her to remind everyone that the Town is starting the boat ramp reconstruction next week at Conway Lake.

B. Budget Discussion:

Mr. Nat Lucy said the 2023 budget total was \$18,700.00 and we have \$6,764.74 left in the budget. Mr. Tim Nolin said the \$7,000.00 line item that was for the parking lots at Marshall and Pudding Pond; there is \$4,917.51 left because the Town did the work of hauling the fill to Marshall, but they have not done the Pudding Pond parking lot yet. Mr. Nolin asked if anyone knew when the Town planned on hauling fill to the Pudding Pond parking lot. Mr. Rob Adair said he spoke with Mr. Andrew Smith, Public Works Director and he said they were finishing up a road project and still planned on hauling fill to the Pudding

Pond parking lot. Mr. Nat Lucy stated after reimbursing for the new kiosks at Whitaker Woods there is \$1,764.74 remaining in the budget, but they have not taken out the minute taker's pay yet.

Mr. Nat Lucy said the porta-potties for three months this summer cost \$1,800.00 and the annual membership fee for the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions is \$625.00. Mr. Rob Adair said if we end the year under budget, that is not necessarily a bad thing. Mr. Nat Lucy suggested the Commission ask for more money in the budget for 2024. Mr. Rob Adair stated every two to three years the Commission does a timber harvest that usually pays back the year's budget.

Mr. Tim Nolin handed out his budget proposal for 2024 to the Commission. There was a brief discussion on if the money for the parking lots should be coming out of the Forest Land Improvement's budget line or if it should have its own budget line.

Mr. Nat Lucy said we have been focusing primarily on a few properties over the past few years and we need to branch out and focus on some of the other properties we manage.

Mr. Nat Lucy asked if there were any projects for next year that would require tree work that is not included in Mr. Nolin's proposal. Mr. Peter Minnich stated while walking on the Walker Pond Trail he noticed some big dead pine trees hanging over the trail. Mr. Paul Getchell said he was in there a few times in the last week and sent photos to all members earlier today of the signs that need to be replaced. Mr. Getchell said he spoke with Mr. Doug Burnell to ask who originally made the signs. There was a brief discussion on the Loop Trail. Mr. Getchell showed pictures of the flooding of the trail from the Dam being opened and the condition of the bridge. Mr. Nat Lucy said he feels this is one of the properties we should be shifting our focus to. Mr. Lucy asked Mr. Tim Nolin to take a look at the timber on Walker Pond to see if there is any potential for a harvest. Mr. Lucy asked if the signs should be replaced. Mr. Getchell answered in the affirmative. There was further discussion on trail work and reconfiguration in the Walker Pond property.

Mr. Corbett Tulip asked when the next clearing is scheduled for upper Hurricane. Mr. Tim Nolin said that has not been scheduled for a while due to the access. Mr. Nolin stated it was cleared once by hand and the second time we drove equipment up there and that was expensive and a challenge. Mr. Nat Lucy suggested hand cutting so the view is visible. Mr. Tulip said he and Mr. Rob Adair were at a meeting where emergency access to Mt. Washington Valley's trail networks was discussed. There was a brief discussion on ideas to improve emergency accesses.

Mr. Nat Lucy said we need to get a rough proposal together for the Walker Pond property for the signs and trail work that could be included in the budget for next year. Mr. Rob Adair suggested asking Mr. David Smolen from the Conway Public Library or Mr. Jonathan Goodwin regarding the cost of the signs that were put up at the Redstone Quarry.

Mr. Corbett Tulip stated he feels continuing improvements in Marshall is money well spent. There was a brief discussion on trail work in the Marshall Conservation Area. Mr. Nat Lucy asked the members if \$15,000 for trail work in next year's budget will be enough. All members agreed. Mr. Dan Lucy said there is growth on Lucille's Trail that is starting to look like a single path in some areas. Mr. Rob Adair said he has been mowing that trail every two years. Mr. Corbett Tulip volunteered to create a master list over the winter of all the conservation lands, required maintenance, and which lands have maps. Mr. Nat Lucy said that is a great idea and suggested working with Mr. Tim Nolin to create the master list.

C. Member Roundtable:

Mr. Corbett Tulip asked if the Conservation Commission has a representative or any input into the Town's Master Plan that is being revised. Mr. Rob Adair said beyond reporting on the properties we manage, we have not had any input into the Recreation Chapter.

Mr. Dan Lucy asked if there has been anymore communication about the next phase of the Rec Path. Mr. Rob Adair said he asked Mr. Chris Meier from the Trails Association to come talk to the Commission and give an update.

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

Adjourn: Mr. Rob Adair made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Nat Lucy. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Jacqueline White
Recording Secretary