

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2024**

The April 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; Selectmen's Representative, David Weathers; Treasurer, Linda Kearney; Peter Minnich; Corbett Tulip; and Recording Secretary, Jacqueline White.

Absent: Rob Adair; Larry Huemmler; and Paul Getchell.

Also Attending: Tim Nolin, Forest Land Improvements.

1. Approval of the Minutes for March 13, 2024:

Ms. Linda Kearney made a motion to accept the March 13, 2024 minutes with two minor edits; seconded by Mr. Peter Minnich. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports & Other Business:

A. Whitaker Woods Safety and Salvage Cut:

Mr. Nat Lucy said he felt the walk earlier today through Whitaker Woods to view the dead trees went well and there was good turn out from the public.

Mr. Peter Minnich asked who cleans up the storm damage on the trails. Mr. Nat Lucy said that is usually done by volunteers. Mr. Peter Minnich said he would like to help with the clean-up.

Mr. Nat Lucy stated we need to decide how we are going to do this salvage cut in Whitaker Woods. Mr. Tim Nolin presented the different options for a salvage cut to the Commission. Mr. Nolin handed out a map showing the areas of the dead trees and salvage cut. Mr. Nolin said a great deal of the dead trees run along the boundary line to the railroad tracks and we will need to get in touch with the railroad for permission. Mr. Nolin stated the biggest thing we have to decide is how to go about this cut with two potential access points; end of Oak Street where the Town is putting a truck turn around, which is close to where there was a log landing in the mid-90s. Mr. Nolin said the other alternative is using the access at the north edge of the power lines, which is about 2,800 ft from Kearsarge Road. Mr. Nolin stated he feels the second option is the better one, as this location is further away from neighborhoods.

There was a brief discussion on the logistics of tractor trailers being able to make the turn from Oak Street to Mechanic Street versus the Kearsarge Road access.

Mr. Dan Lucy asked if the yellow area on the map handed out will be clear cut. Mr. Tim Nolin answered essentially, but he would leave any healthy pines, maple, and hemlocks.

There was further discussion on the north access point versus the end of Oak Street for a log landing in regards to where the bulk of the harvest will take place, which is closer to the north access point. Mr. Tim Nolin stated his recommendation is to use the north access point for a log landing, but ultimately the decision is the Commission's.

Mr. Nat Lucy asked Mr. Tim Nolin what type of processing/logging does he recommend for this project. Mr. Nolin answered either dragging trees or carrying trees. Dragging trees would entail cutting the trees with the tops on them and dragging them to the log landing to be processed. The other style of logging is cut-to-length where the trees are felled to the ground, processed to the saleable lengths and then carried to the log landing. Mr. Nolin said the advantage of dragging the trees is it is faster and more economical and the disadvantages are its less surgical and has to be done in straight lines. Mr. Nolin stated the advantage of doing cut-to-length would be leaving the brush, which is good for the soil, and you are much more agile and can move through the forest easier with the logs.

Mr. Nat Lucy suggested using some of the proceeds from the salvage harvest to put the trails back in good condition after the logging is complete. Mr. Tim Nolin stated we could add that condition into the contract. Mr. David Weathers asked if there are any plans to do selective cutting during logging outside of the highlighted area on the map provided if there are damaged or dead trees noticed outside of the cutting area. Mr. Lucy answered that may happen during the project.

Mr. Nat Lucy stated we will have to put this project out to bid. There was further discussion regarding bid specifications, process, and time frame. Mr. Corbett Tulip asked what is the time estimate for how long this project will take. Mr. Tim Nolin answered approximately one month.

There was a brief discussion on how to close off some trails and create detours for safety during this project.

Mr. Tim Nolin said his recommendation is cut-to-length style of logging and use the north access point for the log landing. Mr. David Weathers asked wouldn't there be less trips doing a bio-mass cut. Mr. Nat Lucy said if we drag the whole trees, it will save some money, but it would make a mess. Mr. Weathers stated he disagrees and in his experience the skid roads and landings end up in better shape with a bio-mass cut. There was further discussion on the two different styles of logging.

Mr. Nat Lucy made a motion to approve Mr. Tim Nolin's recommendation of using cut-to-length style of logging and using the north access point for the log landing; seconded by Mr. Dan Lucy. Motion passed (5-1) with Mr. David Weathers in the negative.

B. Election of Officers:

Ms. Linda Kearney nominated Mr. Nat Lucy for Chair; seconded by Mr. David Weathers. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Mr. Peter Minnich nominated Mr. Dan Lucy for Vice Chair; seconded by Mr. David Weathers. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Mr. David Weathers nominated Ms. Linda Kearney as Treasurer; seconded by Mr. Nat Lucy. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

C. Selectmen's Report:

Mr. David Weathers said the Town is hoping to do their plow turnaround at the end of Oak Street in conjunction with our salvage harvest.

D. Member Roundtable:

Mr. Nat Lucy passed out a map of the Abenaki Forest Land and stated the Abenaki Nation has been in contact with the Town regarding re-erecting the totem pole on the Abenaki Forest Land. Mr. Lucy said there are some buildings on the land, and at one point they had a gift shop there as well on the small piece of land adjacent to the railroad. The re-erected totem pole would be 30 feet high and would have a historical marker sign close to the totem pole. Mr. Lucy was asked by Mr. John Eastman, Town Manager to run this by the Commission. Ms. Linda Kearney stated she remembers visiting that gift shop. Mr. Lucy asked if any members had questions or an issue with this and all replied "no".

Mr. Nat Lucy said the short trail at the Redstone Quarry that he brought up at the last meeting will be maintained by NEMBA. Mr. Peter Minnich said he would like to see a plan of where the trail will be located. Mr. Nat Lucy said he will ask them to bring a location plan of the proposed trail to next month's meeting.

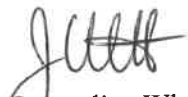
Ms. Linda Kearney provided a Treasurer's Report. Ms. Kearney stated the L-Chip fund has \$22,648.00 and the Hubbard Davis fund has \$16,254.00, but in June 2023 there was \$21,992.00 in the Hubbard Davis fund. Ms. Kearney asked where did that money go. Mr. Nat Lucy said he will check with the Finance Department on the Hubbard Davis fund. Ms. Kearney said the Current Use fund is up to \$538,399.00 and \$298,224.00 in the Land Acquisition fund.

There was a brief discussion on the different funds and where the money comes from.

Next Meeting: The next CCC meeting will be on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH.

Adjourn: Mr. Nat Lucy made a motion to adjourn at 7:33 P.M.; seconded by Ms. Linda Kearney. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Jacqueline White
Recording Secretary