

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

The July 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; Rob Adair; Larry Huemmler; Peter Minnich; Corbett Tulip; Paul Getchell; and Recording Secretary, Jacqueline White.

Absent:

Also Attending: Tim Nolin, Forest Land Improvement.

1. Approval of the Minutes for June 12, 2024:

Mr. David Weathers said he was not at the last meeting, and asked if the \$3,000 set aside for the Black Cap Trail Project will be for work on Town owned land. Mr. Nat Lucy said it can be. Mr. David Weathers suggested making a requirement that it needs to be for work on Town owned land.

Mr. Rob Adair made a motion to accept the June 12, 2024 minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Larry Huemmler. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

2. Public Comment:

Mr. Mark Hounsell introduced himself to the Commission. Mr. Hounsell requested that the Conservation Commission vote to reconsider the next phase of the rec path and/or table it until the proposal is properly vetted in a transparent manner through the hearing process including the Selectmen and the Planning Board. Mr. Hounsell said he feels the proper order of hearings was not followed.

3. Reports & Other Business:

A. Forester Report:

Mr. Tim Nolin said everything is all done with the salvage cut in Whitaker Woods. Mr. Nolin said he has a packet with the check to drop off at Town Hall tomorrow and the net to the Town after all expenses is \$23,500 and the timber tax is \$4,400. Mr. Nolin said in total the Town is getting \$27,900 from this project. Ms. Linda Kearney asked what account does this money go in to. Mr. Nat Lucy answered the General Fund.

Mr. Tim Nolin said the parking lot and the gate look good at the Kearsarge Road entrance to Whitaker Woods. Mr. Nat Lucy agreed and said we need to get a “Do Not Block Gate” sign. Mr. Rob Adair said we also need one of those signs on the Thompson Road gate. Mr. Nat Lucy asked if any member wanted to volunteer to take this task on. Mr. Corbett Tulip volunteered to obtain two signs that say “Do Not Block Gate”, one for the Kearsarge Road parking lot entrance to Whitaker Woods, and the other for the Thompson Road parking lot gate to the Rec Path.

Mr. Tim Nolin said he was really pleased with the close out work from the salvage cut, and Mr. Nat Lucy agreed.

Mr. Peter Minnich said he went out in Whitaker Woods three times during the salvage cut and everyone he crossed paths with had positive thoughts on the salvage cut. Mr. Tim Nolin said he was in there every day during the salvage cut, and he did not come across a single person that was angry about it, some people had questions, but no anger.

B. Conservation Land Reports:

Hurricane Common Lands – Mr. Corbett Tulip said he has been working up there for two weeks now on Red Tail Trail, this work was previously approved by the Conservation Commission. Mr. Nat Lucy asked Mr. Tulip if he was aware of anyone doing hand earth work to the Cranmore Connector Trail. Mr. Tulip said no he has not been on that trail recently.

Marshall Conservation Land – Mr. Dan Lucy said Mr. Corbett Tulip has finished up the Lucille's Loop improvements project. Mr. Tim Nolin said he went and looked at the dead oaks along Lucille's Loop. Mr. Nolin stated there is also a big pocket of dead oaks by the entrance. Mr. Nat Lucy asked Mr. Nolin what are his recommendations. Mr. Nolin stated the dead oaks are very scattered unlike in Whitaker Woods where it was condensed and virtually no under story and on the Marshall lot where it was harvested before the Towns ownership, there is so much regeneration and a lot of it is good pine and birch. Mr. Nolin said when they harvested the Marshall Land before the Town took ownership, they took all the biggest and best trees, because of that there is not a ton of value in the dead oak trees that are left. Mr. Nolin stated since its all spread out, it would end up being a cost situation and you would have to cut a skid road in to get the wood out. Mr. Nat Lucy asked should we cut some of the dead oak trees down or clean them up after they fall down. Mr. Tim Nolin said the dead oak trees are not hanging over the trails as bad as they were in Whitaker Woods. Mr. Corbett Tulip said it will be quite the undertaking to start dropping the dead oak trees. Mr. Dan Lucy said he does not believe its worth doing a commercial operation. Mr. Nolin and Mr. Tulip agreed. Mr. Dan Lucy suggests keeping an eye on it.

Mr. Nat Lucy said its important to maintain the trails and asked if there is a volunteer group that keeps the trails clear. Mr. Rob Adair said there are volunteers that use the trails that do clean up the trails after storms and in the spring and White Mountains NEMBA has taken responsibility in the past to help us maintain the trails. **Mr. Adair reported that he did most of the mowing in Marshall this month.** Mr. Adair stated he agrees with Mr. Dan Lucy with not doing an organized cut and continue monitoring the situation. Mr. Nat Lucy agreed.

There was further discussion on volunteer groups helping to maintain the trails on conservation lands.

Walker Pond Land – Mr. Paul Getchell said as you all know the grant money came in, which was \$1,400 less then asked for. Mr. Getchell asked how should we proceed and he has a couple ideas; negotiate part of budget that had to do with the layout, get another bid from another company, or scale down the size of the signs. Mr. Getchell said the next step is the content on the signs, which he has reached out to the Historical Society, and the Conway Public Library for assistance. Mr. Nat Lucy asked if this will be a project this year. Mr. Getchell said it is a stipulation of the grants we received that it needs to be done within a year.

Mr. Peter Minnich said a lot of trail work needs to be done in the Walker Pond area. Mr. Nat Lucy asked if there is volunteer group that could help with the trail work or do we need to take it out of our budget for

the trail work. Mr. Minnich suggested having a Conservation Trail Day and see how many volunteers attend. There was further discussion on trail maintenance.

Shedd Woods – Mr. Rob Adair said he and Ms. Carissa Milliman took a walk through Shedd Woods and did some trimming on the trail that goes down to the river. Mr. Nat Lucy asked if the culvert is still holding up. Mr. Adair answered in the affirmative.

Abenaki Land – Mr. Dan Lucy said he will be meeting next month with John from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, specifically about a boundary line we have had problems with encroachment in the past.

East Conway Lands – Mr. Larry Huemmler said he received a good map from Ms. Jacqueline White of the relocated Right-of-Way and the road, so he will be going back soon to figure out where exactly the Right-of-Way is located.

Duprey Lands – Mr. Nat Lucy said Mr. Tim Nolin found an old report he did of this land, which is 14.5 acres and is land locked. There was a brief discussion on this land and the history of it.

C. Selectmen's Report:

Mr. David Weathers said he has attended all the Selectmen Meetings and spoken with Mr. John Eastman, and there is nothing that has happened or coming up that will concern the Conservation Commission.

D. Planning Board Update:

There was a brief discussion on some projects in Town that Mr. Nat Lucy feels the Commission should keep an eye on.

E. Member Roundtable:

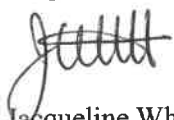
There was a brief discussion on the existing Rec Path and how popular it is and great to see so many people using it.

Mr. Nat Lucy said he will not be here for the August meeting, so Mr. Dan Lucy will run the meeting.

Next Meeting: The next CCC meeting will be on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH.

Adjourn: Mr. Rob Adair made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Nat Lucy. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Jacqueline White
Recording Secretary