

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 14, 2024**

The August monthly meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at **6:31 PM** at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH.

Present: Vice Chairman, Dan Lucy; Selectmen’s Representative, David Weathers; Rob Adair; Larry Huemmler; Peter Minnich; and Recording Secretary, Jacqueline White.

Absent: Chairman, Nat Lucy; Treasurer, Linda Kearney; Corbett Tulip; and Paul Getchell.

Also Attending: Tim Nolin, Forest Land Improvement; and Carrissa Milliman, USVLT.

**1. Approval of the Minutes for July 10, 2024:**

Minutes will be amended to include “Mr. Rob Adair reported that he did most of the mowing in Marshall this month.”

**Mr. Rob Adair made a motion to accept the July 10, 2024 minutes as amended; seconded by Mr. David Weathers. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

**2. Public Comment:** None.

**3. Reports & Other Business:**

A. Forester Report:

Mr. Tim Nolin said one of the item’s on this year’s budget was an assessment of the oak trees on DOT Mitigation Lands and Pudding Pond. Mr. Nolin reminded the Commission that the State’s Forest Division got a drone last Fall that has an infrared camera that can measure the health of the trees, and recently flew it over the DOT Mitigation Lands and Pudding Pond. Mr. Nolin shared a map that is produced from this drone with the Commission that shows the health of the trees by color coding. The map is broken down into 1 acre blocks, and makes an assessment on 0-25% of the forest is dead or declining, 25-50% of the forest is dead or declining, 50-75% of the forest is dead or declining, and 75-100% of the forest is dead or declining. Mr. Nolin said the second data set from the State, shows the health of each individual tree, but the file is too large to print and/or email. Mr. Nolin pointed out the orange and red areas on the map, which have the most dead or declining trees. Mr. Nolin stated there are some pockets of mortality around Pudding Pond, but with the loss of access to the lot we can’t do a timber sale out there. Mr. Nolin asked the Commission if it is worth doing a salvage harvest on the DOT lands in the Winter time, as its too wet out there the rest of the year. Mr. Nolin stated we would have to plow the access road which is a snowmobile trail in the winter.

Mr. David Weathers asked how long will the oak have any value to it. Mr. Nolin answered probably in to next summer you will be able to get mat logs which are still very good value. Mr. Rob Adair said our agreement with the state is that we can do timber harvests on the DOT Mitigation Land. Mr. Weathers asked to use the snowmobile trail would we have to close the access off to the snowmobiles to do this

logging. Mr. Nolin stated we would have to plow the road, so it is unknown if the road would be passable to snowmobiles, because of the weather it could freeze the road, or melt it.

Mr. Tim Nolin asked if the Commission would like to go look at this area as a group.

Mr. Dan Lucy asked what Mr. Nolin's main concern was. Mr. Nolin said he wants the Commissioners to see the scope of the dead trees, how far they are from the trail system, and what would be left if we did the salvage cut. Mr. Nolin said this harvest could potentially bring in \$20-\$30k to the Town. Mr. Dan Lucy said it's not about the money, it's about the health of the forest. Mr. Nolin agreed and added and about the resilience of the forest that you have left.

There was further discussion on the area of the potential salvage harvest.

A time was scheduled for a couple commissioners to meet and walk out to the subject location.

Mr. Tim Nolin said one more item, we put in the budget \$1,500 to seed this landing, but this landing has seeded itself back in. Mr. Nolin said we will not be spending that money on seeding. Mr. Nolin asked if that \$1,500 could be put towards the new signs at Walker Pond.

#### B. Conservation Land Reports:

Abenaki Land – Mr. Dan Lucy asked Mr. Nolin when the last time the boundaries were marked on the Abenaki Land. Mr. Lucy said he met with John from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and noticed encroachment onto the Abenaki Land from the Intervale Crossroad Condominiums. Mr. Lucy said there was a couple marked trees, that are not there anymore and some other trees that were also marked suspiciously fell into the woods against prevailing winds. Mr. Lucy said his suggestion would be to have the land surveyed. Mr. Nolin said he will check his files and see if Don had a surveyed plan for the property. Mr. Nolin stated he will also go up and take a look at the boundary lines. Mr. Nolin said to remark a boundary line, anyone can do that, but if there is no evidence to freshen up, you would need a survey done. Mr. Lucy stated we have had issues with encroachment from this property before.

Mr. Rob Adair said a few years ago the Condo Association approached them about cutting one tree down and we agreed they could do it, but the Condo Association would need to pay for it.

Walker Pond Land – Mr. Peter Minnich stated they had not gotten together over the signs yet. Mr. Minnich said he walked the trails recently and thinks it would be easy to make a trail that could be on Town land, instead of on the abutters land. Mr. Minnich said if we did this the entire trail could be placed on the map on the new signs. Mr. Nolin said it would be nice to have a loop trail that stayed on Town property. There was further discussion on the trail system in Walkers Pond. It was decided to wait until the next meeting to discuss the possibility of a new trail with all members.

Shedd Woods – Ms. Carissa Milliman said she visited Shedd Woods and found that some trimming needed to be done. Mr. Tim Nolin said he does yearly trimming out by the road and fence. Ms. Milliman said this is closer to the water, on the trails some trimming is needed. Mr. Nolin asked if he should do that while he is in there doing the annual maintenance trimming. Mr. Dan Lucy answered in the affirmative.

C. Selectmen's Report:

Mr. David Weathers asked for any suggestions or ideas to try and address the over use and pollution/trash on the Saco River. Mr. Weathers said if you do have any suggestions or ideas report back to John Eastman, Town Manager or one of the Selectmen. Mr. Weathers said he spoke with Mr. Peter Gagne, who owns one of the tubing companies and they have a concentrated effort to keep the river clean, including incentives for money off your trip to customers that come back with a full trash bag and sending his staff down twice a week to clean up along the river. Mr. Weathers said he was speaking with a resident that lives along the Saco River, and that resident said he sat on the river banking and counted 275 kayakers and tubers go by within 1 hour.

D. Member Roundtable:

There was a brief discussion on the Thompson Road parking lot.

Next Meeting: The next CCC meeting will be on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH.

**Adjourn: Mr. David Weathers made a motion to adjourn at 7:19 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Rob Adair. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jacqueline White  
Recording Secretary