

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES, November 14, 2023**

Larry Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:00

Commissioners Present: Larry Spencer, Shelagh Connelly, Bill Nesheim, Woodie Laverack,

Not Present: Anne Packard, April Sargent, Ben Amsden

Also Present: Lucinda Hannus, Land Use Administrator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 10, 2023

“Motion to approve the minutes as presented correcting the spelling of Ms. Connelly’s first name “– L. Spencer

Second – B. Nesheim

Approved: 4 - Yes, 0 - No

MAIL CHECK: Mr. Spencer reviewed the mail which consisted of the annual membership application to NHTOA

OLD ITEMS:

1. Trails on properties - B. Nesheim mentioned that he still needs to build the signs but needs to purchase a new router to complete the job.
2. Monitoring Reports – Monitoring reports have been completed for most of the conservation properties. S. Connelly mentioned that the Butternut Lane property has a driveway on a property currently for sale that has washed out and she was not sure what the owner could do to repair. Also was concerned with how a sales agent or prospective buyer would be aware of an existing conservation easement on the property. Do town tax cards indicate that there is an easement if not would it only be in the deed description? B. Nesheim stated he would speak to M. Capone on this matter and report back.
3. LCHIP Grant application – deferred to end of meeting
4. Cyanobacteria - B. Nesheim has been researching pesticide use and noted that the Pemigewasset River Overlay District is more restrictive than the shoreland areas and was curious on how the environmental restrictions came about for the river. S. Connelly responded that when the push came for the wild and scenic rivers designation there were many environmentally based restrictions proposed as an amendment to town zoning ordinances. The town(s) along the river picked and choose which restrictions they felt were pertinent to their segments of the river within each town. B. Nesheim

indicated that this same overlay style of zoning could be applied to all waterbodies within the town and could be an avenue for the fireworks restriction over these waterbodies that is currently being considered by the Planning Board. The Town of Sandwich also has something similar that applies to septic systems within the lake shore overlay district. L. Spencer suggested that Bill continue his research and might reach out to Cole Beale for his input, and also there is a meeting scheduled in Moultonborough where NHDES will be presenting the revised shoreland regulations. B. Nesheim will continue to work on his report addressing this issue.

5. Japanese Knotweed - L. Spencer indicated that Eversource responded to him regarding the knotweed where they recently did replacement pole work by providing photos of the existence of this invasive species prior to them working in the area. Now that the growing season is over the area should be re-inspected next season for any expansion of the original area.

NEW ITEMS:

1. Budget – L. Spencer presented the proposed '24-25 budget spreadsheet supplied by the Town Administrator. He had no proposed changes and asked the board for their input. There were no changes recommended. S. Connelly made a motion to submit the proposed budget as presented, B. Nesheim seconded with all in favor.

L. Spencer added that he will remind the Town Administrator of their annual request for a deposit of \$5,000.00 be made to the Conservation Fund.

2. NHACC Annual Meeting – L. Spencer mentioned that it was a great meeting, lots of information presented on trails and how much impact they have on the local animal population. It was represented that the distance from a trail that's affects animals in the area is as much as 5 school buses in length. It seems it is a paradox on how to maintain trails so that humans can benefit from nature but then reduce the effect of these trails on the natural habitat. Others discussed how people need to respect others using the trails, stay on existing trails, that we need to continue to make land available for people to care for the land to gain personnel respect for nature. Signage on trails especially limiting motorized vehicles could help and that most of the town's trails are not conducive to e-bikes or motorized vehicles so it has not been as much of a problem then on other trails. L. Spencer noted that there will be restrictions on what can be posted as prohibited on the LCHIP Pemi Ox Bow property.

3. OLD ITEMS LCHIP – L. Spencer brought the members up to speed on the status of the grant. He will name M. Capone, Town Administrator and J. White, Select Board Chair as the designated contacts and signers for the grant. He also presented the blurb he proposes for the description of the project seeking any comments from the members. S. Connelly suggested that we add reference to the Pemi River directly by calling it the **Pemi** Ox Bow Recreational Area and Nature Preserve and include a mention of the seasonal recreation uses on or adjacent to the river.

L. Spencer presented the funding plan he has developed for the project along with the timeline, indicating they will need to update the yellow book appraisal, and complete a boundary survey suggesting it be done sooner rather than later prior to this winter. L. Spencer indicated he will look in to how that could be accomplished.

S. Connelly made a motion that the CC authorizes the expenditure from the Conservation Fund of an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 to complete the updated title work, the appraisal, and the survey on an expedited schedule.

B. Nesheim seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

L. Spencer indicated that a biological survey must be completed on the property and he would like to pursue using his department at PSU to complete this task. Feels that it would be a great learning experience for their students and should not add any cost to the project budget.

The grant award should be announced by the Governor's office in early December.

B. Nesheim again indicated that they do not seem to be receiving Intents to Cut and shoreland permits as requested. It was suggested that L. Spencer reach out to the Town Administrator and others requesting that these are forwarded to the CC upon receipt.

Next Meeting is December 12, 2023

ADJOURNMENT: With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Lucinda M. Hannus
Land Use Administrator