

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **DRAFT**

June 12, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

City Hall, 2nd Fl Conference Rm, 41 Green St

Attendees: Mark Coen, Katherine Healy, Councilor Michele Horne, Tracey Lesser, Vice-Chair Jeff Lewis, and Alternate Allison McGregor

Absent: Rick Chormann, Emily Landry, Alternate Jim Owers, Chair Kristine Tardiff

Staff: AnneMarie Skinner, Assistant City Planner/Acting City Planner

Public: Jean Laverdine, Rebecca Ross

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Lewis at 7:02 p.m.

2. Minutes – Approve May 8, 2024 meeting minutes

Mark Coen moved, Tracey Lesser seconded, to adopt the minutes as written. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

3. New Business

a. Carter Hill Trail – email request

The group discussed an email from Larry Linsky wherein Mr. Linsky noted that the Carter Hill Orchard hiking trail system (labeled the Kalahan K. Emery Memorial Trail on the map) has been covered with giant crushed stones that are very uncomfortable for the able-bodied hiker and dangerous for those who are unsteady on their feet. Mr. Linsky requested a footpath along the side.

The group requested that Carl Matson review and assess the situation and report back at the next meeting. AnneMarie Skinner stated that she will coordinate that assessment with Mr. Matson.

b. Consider appointment of Steven Winnett as an alternate to Tree Subcommittee

Allison McGregor moved, Tracey Lesser seconded, to appoint Steven Winnett as an alternate member of the Tree Subcommittee. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Reports

a. Trails Subcommittee update

Jeff Lewis reported that the northerly bypass discussion was continued due to the absence of Kris Tardiff. Mr. Lewis further reported that Ron Klemarczyk's report was reviewed as well as Carl Matson's report. Mr. Matson's report included a question about a bench being replaced at the overlook at Marjory Swope Park with a concrete pad and that the Trails Subcommittee was unaware of the bench replacement. The Conservation Commission discussed this bench, with Allison McGregor noting that two were approved – one for Beth Fenstermacher and one for someone at The Works. Ms. McGregor did not recall if concrete pads were approved but offered to review the minutes to refresh her memory.

Mr. Lewis noted that the Trails Subcommittee also finalized their 2024 goals, as well as finalizing draft changes to new trail criteria, procedures for new trails, discontinuing trail criteria, and procedures for discontinuing trails. Those drafts will be presented to the Conservation Commission at a future meeting for discussion and adoption.

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b. Forestry update – Ron Klemarczyk

Mr. Lewis pointed the group's attention to Ron Klemarczyk's report in the agenda packet.

Ms. Skinner asked the group about Mr. Klemarczyk's proposed timber harvesting for the Country Hill Estates site and referred to an email she received from Mr. Klemarczyk regarding this proposed harvest. The group requested that the topic be placed on the agenda for the July meeting. This led to a brief discussion on the number of trees and canopy in the City and if that information had ever been compiled and was available. Ms. Lesser noted that, for the right student, such a collection of data would be a good capstone project and will keep it in mind.

c. Tree Subcommittee update – Rick Chormann

No updates.

d. Local River Advisory Committees

No updates.

e. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

No updates.

f. City Open Space and Easements

Ms. Skinner gave an update on the rogue Perry trail, noting that the letter was received and the Perrys would like to proceed with the trail agreement. The city attorney is in the process of finalizing the agreement, and Ms. Skinner will mail the agreement to the Perrys for signature once received from the city attorney.

g. City Council/Planning Board

No updates.

5. Old Business

a. Action on Five Rivers signs request

Allison McGregor moved, seconded by Tracey Lesser, to approve installation of the requested signs on City-owned conservation property, as indicated in the maps, with the caveat to use existing sign posts rather than installing new ones where applicable. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Conservation Easement Monitoring – update on responses and additional actions, if any

Ms. Skinner reported that the treehouses and old fire ring noted in the monitoring report for Walker's Reserve have been removed.

6. Staff updates

Ms. Skinner reported receipt of an email from Nan Nutt, a member of the Havenwood Heritage Heights World Concerns, wherein a request was made for a member of the Conservation Commission to present to that group. The Conservation Commission responded that the site does not contain any City-owned conservation land or any conservation easements and that the Conservation Commission does not typically give presentations.

Ms. Skinner report that it appears the mowing is still taking place on City-owned land adjacent to the Jason Cross property on Sanborn Rd. The Conservation Commission asked Ms. Skinner to send a

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letter to Jason Cross requesting an immediate cease and desist of all activity on City-owned property.

Other Business

Ms. Horne asked about downed trees at Sewalls Falls and was told that is maintained by the State of New Hampshire.

Ms. McGregor mentioned disposal of invasive plant species once removed and general lack of knowledge on how to dispose of and discard such items. Ms. McGregor wondered if this is a topic about which the Conservation Commission should be concerned. The group requested placement of invasive plant species disposal on the next agenda.

Adjournment

Allison McGregor moved, seconded by Tracey Lesser, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
AnneMarie Skinner, AICP
Acting City Planner