

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

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

Attendees: Rick Chormann, Mark Coen, Jim Owers, Emily Landry, Vice-Chair Jeff Lewis,
and Chair Kristine Tardiff

Absent: Katherine Healy, Councilor Michele Horne, Tracey Lesser

Staff: Kearsten O'Brien, Senior Planner
AnneMarie Skinner, City Planner

Public: Ron Klemarczyk, Contract Consultant City Forester

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tardiff at 6:30 p.m.

2. Preservation Matrix

Ms. Landry stated they went through a number of properties where the impact goal is none to very low and the primary focus is wildlands. There is one where there is a secondary potential of limited recreational use. The idea of the properties is to leave them alone.

Mr. Klemarczyk asked staff to show the GIS of the City and suggested including the northern tip called Broken West with the properties that the Conservation Commission leaves alone.

Mr. Coen asked if the area is small enough that there would not be any issue with fires?

Ms. Landry stated it is hard to do forestry work on a lot of the properties due to access and wetlands.

Mr. Klemarczyk stated in the mountains with spruce and fir trees like on the summit of Kearsarge there can be and have been major fires. Mr. Klemarczyk stated in 2015 there was a fire at Penacook Lake, which had been logged and so had re-generation, and that is what burned. It was during the spring season when there is sap. Mr. Klemarczyk noted fire is not a major concern. However, with the climate getting warmer there could be more issues like that or mortality from the gypsy moth or the hemlock with the adelgid and that is more of a concern than fire.

Mr. Chormann stated there is a lot of debate about thinning more forest.

Mr. Klemarczyk stated most of the major fires in New Hampshire are the result of hurricane aftermath or massive logging operations.

Ms. Landry stated the next step would be to sit down with Mr. Klemarczyk to figure out the parcels they want the primary goal to be forestry.

Mr. Klemarczyk stated there are City forest areas that have not been logged due to access or other items.

Mr. Chormann stated there is a potential revenue stream that comes from logging. If it is significant enough to override the recreational and ecological benefits to do timber stand types of treatments that needs to be sorted out. Are there properties where growing trees as a crop makes sense?

Mr. Klemarczyk stated recreation is having more of an impact on forestry because of the buffer zones

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from the trails and has reduced the acreage and potential income.

Chair Tardiff stated they often used forestry in order to expand recreational use.

Mr. Owers asked how much land is available for logging?

Mr. Klemarczyk stated quite a bit.

Ms. Landry asked if the Conservation Commission budgets for an amount for forestry each year?

Chair Tardiff stated there is a plan the Conservation Commission has every year to approve but not a certain amount.

Ms. Landry asked Mr. Klemarczyk if he is following the forestry management plan he has already done?

Mr. Klemarczyk stated yes.

Ms. Landry asked if it is possible to get a list of potential forestry activities for the next five years so they can see what properties are on the list? Does the Conservation Commission want to move forward with the forestry management plan or change the forest management plan to reflect the matrix?

Mr. Klemarczyk stated that is why the forestry management plan needs to be updated.

Mr. Chormann stated then the question becomes for the properties they are taking out of the forest management category and have tied to properties that have the most potential to fit in the category going forward. Mr. Chormann noted it is speculative to some degree because they cannot anticipate all the factors that will influence forest development over time.

Mr. Klemarczyk stated it is good to know what is out there.

Mr. Chormann noted having a baseline for what the ecology is would be a good investment for the Conservation Commission.

Chair Tardiff asked if the forestry plan is to be updated?

Ms. Skinner stated the forestry plan needs to be updated every five years and it is long overdue to be updated.

Chair Tardiff asked Mr. Klemarczyk if he would be able to get the forest management plan updated this year.

Mr. Klemarczyk answered yes.

Ms. Landry suggested as they update the matrix that can help guide the management plan. They can note the parcels they do not want to have forestry on even if there is potential so that can be added to the forest management plan.

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Vice-Chair Lewis asked what is the goal of the Conservation Commission in reference to the matrix and the forestry plan? Is it going to be a report or a spreadsheet and what is the name?

Chair Tardiff stated the original goal was to inventory the Conservation Commission properties and identify low or no impact properties to set aside as preserves and document them. Chair Tardiff noted this would go along with the Conservation Commission's open space plan. Chair Tardiff suggested having a spreadsheet with only the conservation lands that the Conservation Commission owns. Once the forest plan is updated, then focus on the preserve areas for conservation land, and then map out.

Mr. Chormann asked if anyone has had an opportunity to look at the impact goals and if there are any issues or offer alternatives as there needs to be a consensus around the target properties. That could change if any new information comes along.

Chair Tardiff did not see anything that stood out. Chair Tardiff asked for a GIS map of City-owned conservation land, and then look at the low/no impact sites.

3. Staff updates on items

- Ms. Skinner stated for the forestry management plan update, Mr. Klemarczyk provided two quotes. One for \$48,000 or one for \$29,000. The Conservation Commission needs to approve, and then a request will be sent to City Council to approve the expenditure from the forestry fund.

Mr. Klemarczyk stated this is for all City forest lands as he knows them. There are some with wetlands that he would not be able to walk through.

Chair Tardiff asked for information on the quote.

Mr. Klemarczyk stated for new acquisitions he completes a full inventory.

Mr. Chormann is asking for a base level across the board to update the new properties and the treatments to what has been done since the last forest management plan and what condition they are in now with any recommendations. If there are certain parcels the Conservation Commission selects for ongoing commercial activities they would need to know the particulars of the standing timber at that location. Mr. Chormann stated the Conservation Commission needs to know to what extent invasives are an issue at the properties.

Mr. Klemarczyk stated he sees invasives as a separate layer in the management plan.

Chair Tardiff asked if Mr. Klemarczyk can note invasive plants when he walks the properties.

Mr. Klemarczyk stated yes.

Chair Tardiff stated there are two quotes the Conservation Commission needs agree on to move forward. Chair Tardiff suggested to go with the larger quote.

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Vice-Chair Lewis stated they are behind on having the forestry management plan updated.

Vice-Chair Lewis made a motion to request appropriation of the funds up to \$48,000 to pay for the update to the forest management plan. Mr. Coen seconded.

Discussion

Mr. Owers stated he would like for Mr. Klemarczyk to start at the \$29,000 level.

Chair Tardiff stated the motion is up to \$48,000.

Vice-Chair Lewis stated it sounds like Mr. Klemarczyk has already done some of the work.

Mr. Klemarczyk would cut back on timber sale and give it his full focus for this year.

Mr. Chormann asked if there are any scheduled timber sales for this year?

Mr. Klemarczyk stated just the Riley lot. Mr. Klemarczyk stated it is not a big one.

All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. Skinner stated the budget for the next fiscal presented by Mr. Klemarczyk is slightly less than \$45,000. Ms. Skinner reviewed with the group the items identified by Mr. Klemarczyk as needing to be addressed in the next fiscal year. Would the Conservation Commission like to leave the list as presented by Mr. Klemarczyk or make adjustments?

Chair Tardiff stated the Conservation Commission needs to make a decision on the Riley Lot for a low impact goal.

Vice-Chair Lewis asked if this is just for budget purposes?

Chair Tardiff stated yes.

Mr. Klemarczyk stated the one item with a question mark is the west end farm country hill re-route. The proposed \$10,000 budget allotment includes a bridge and a culvert.

Mr. Owers would like to see the line item stay in the budget and proceed with the west end farm country hill reroute.

Vice-Chair Lewis made a motion to approve Mr. Klemarczyk's budget and eliminate the question mark so that the west end farm country hill reroute is part of the budget for fiscal year 2026. Mr.

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Chormann seconded. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Owers left the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

- Ms. O'Brien shared that the state is looking to surplus a portion of the Taylor state forest and asked if the Conservation Commission would be interested in purchasing 1.42 acres on the west side of route 106. The purchase price would be fair market. There is no conservation easement on the property.

Vice-Chair Lewis stated the lot is not in the Conservation Commission's focus area.

The Conservation Commission agreed not to purchase the land.

Vice-Chair Lewis made a motion that the Conservation Commission is not interested in the parcel being offered by the State of New Hampshire. Chair Tardiff seconded. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. Skinner stated Mr. Walsh is asking for the Conservation Commission to get a survey of the Emmons property.

Mr. Chormann stated the Conservation Commission already had a survey completed.

Chair Tardiff stated the Conservation Commission had one completed at the time of purchase that shows the stone wall as the property boundary.

Ms. Skinner asked if it would show the fence?

Mr. Klemarczyk stated he did not know if it shows the fence, but it does show the wall as the property boundary and the fence is on the other side of the wall on the City-owned property.

Ms. Skinner stated she will let Mr. Walsh know the wall is on the survey and the fence is on City property.

Chair Tardiff stated the Conservation Commission needs to be consistent with all properties, which means the fence needs to be removed.

Ms. Skinner will report back to Mr. Walsh.

Ms. Skinner stated the survey of the 16-foot-wide easement has been completed and they found the center line. It has not been marked due to winter weather. As soon as the weather clears they will mark it and let Ms. Skinner know. Then they will schedule a time for the Conservation

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Commission to look at it.

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Lewis moved, seconded by Ms. Landry, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. All in favor.
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Tremblay

Krista Tremblay

Administrative Specialist II