

1 CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2 Boscawen Municipal Complex
3

4 September 20, 2022
5 Minutes
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7 Present: Alan Hardy, Chair, Lyman Cousens, Henry Carrier, Betsey McNaughten, Matt Burdick, Aurel
8 Mihai
9

10 Absent: Mark Kaplan, Jeff Abbe, Norm LaPierre
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12 Guest: Charlie Niebling
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14 Staff Present: Kearsten O'Brien, Deputy Planning and Community Development Director, Kellee Jo
15 Easler, Planning and Community Development Director, Kara Gallagher, Clerk and Rose Fife,
16 Recording Secretary
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19 **Regular Business:**

- 20 • Open by Chair at 6:37 pm – Appointed voting Members: Henry Carrier, Lyman Cousens and
21 Betsey McNaughten.
- 22 • Roll call – by secretary.
- 23 • Accountant's Report – O'Brien noted that the report was not up to date. It is two weeks behind
24 and it may not reflect current amounts. A **motion** to approve the report, as presented, was made
25 by Mihai, seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.
- 26 • Review Minutes of 08.16.22 – A **motion** to approve the Minutes, as presented, was made by
27 Mihai, seconded by Carrier and passed by a 4-1. McNaughten abstained.
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29 Fall Festival Proposal: O'Brien presented. She is speaking to all the Boards and committees and would
30 like to present a Fall Festival for 2023. Her hope is to do more business/community outreach. Economic
31 Development was in a lull. AGCOM and Economic Development were in favor of this event. She is
32 proposing that the AGCom committee will put on agricultural events and the EDC would attract the
33 vendors to come in. She was also going to speak with the Old Home Day committee and hope they may
34 want to do their craft fair and town wide yard sale during this event. She'd also like to propose a movie
35 night. This year's movie night they are anticipating 318 people coming to that event. She didn't know
36 if the Conservation Commission would want to have a booth or have a walk or maybe do something at
37 Walker Pond.
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39 Charlie Niebling asked where the event would be located. O'Brien stated it would be at the park. She
40 spoke with the Northern Rail Trail who would like to have a booth there. AgCom would like to see if
41 Merrimack County 4-H would come in as well. O'Brien thought maybe Niebling might want to do a
42 saw mill presentation. Hardy asked if she was taking it to all the Boards and commissions. She said she
43 was. She will send an email out to the Energy Committee as well and she will try to get on the Old
44 Home Day Agenda. Planning Board may have a booth and ZBA may not participated, she isn't sure.
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46 Hardy asked when she thinks she might have a good idea of what the participation level would be.
47 O'Brien explained that she already has an idea. She has the Select Board's permission. She was thinking
48 it would be held on October 14th, the Saturday after Columbus Day Weekend. Hardy asked if she wanted
49 to leave it on the agenda until next month. She said yes. McNaughten asked if she knew of any other
50 town that does this type of event. O'Brien listed out the Warner has a Fall Festival, Milford Pumpkin

Festival and Londonderry Old Home Day. She's been taking ideas from each of those events. O'Brien asked if McNaughten would check with Fish and Game to see if they would like to participate.

Mail: Notification of a Forestry Statutory Permit by notification for 130 Corn Hill Road. Niebling walked the property and prepared the timber tax matrix for O'Brien. HFLC will be doing the harvest on this property as well as a few others and they are using the same road bond to do that. Niebling noted a permit can be filed by notification when there is a minimal impact.

Norm LaPierre arrived at 6:53 pm.

A tank replacement plan for Elektrisola was submitted. This is the current technology. Engineering has been done according to DES regulations. Hardy asked if in the future the commission sees something that concerns them or they are curious about something they read, he'd like them to send him an email and he will check into it.

NH River's Management and Protection Program and Advisory Committee has appointed Mark Kaplan to represent Boscawen. Boscawen could have up to 4 members if anyone else is interested. The Select Board would recommend the appointment that was made with this organization.

Old Business:

- Town Forest Discussion Items
 - Invasive Plan Conservation 09.23.22 – UNH Extension service is putting it on in person. Registration needs to be done by the 22nd.
- Walker Pond Discussion Items: O'Brien displayed some pictures of the area on the flat screen, which showed the parking area. Material was brought in to lift up the grade. Hardy met Dean Hollins and Joel Lorden on site. Between the water line and where the material was put in, they have a decent amount of distance. To move forward with the Emergency Lane Declaration they need to bring the gravel out to the parking area. Hollins is proposing a turnaround in the right angled area which will allow him a place to push snow. It will not infringe on anyone else's property, just the town's property. Thursday night they will make a presentation to the Select Board. If the Board wants to proceed with the Emergency Lane Declaration Extension it will move forward to public hearing on October 6th at the Select Board meeting. Hardy would like to know who they thought might have an interest in the emergency lane declaration for the road. Easler has put together the abutters list to that point, which includes all abutters on Chadwick Hill Road in Boscawen. She didn't include David Silver's as he is not on Chadwick Hill Road. They will make the notification. Statute refers to notifying those who have direct interest. McNaughten asked what the purpose of making it into an emergency lane was. Hardy explained it was to have safe access and they will plow it to that area. It will allow the town to maintain the access road as far as the boat launch, which people do park near.

LaPierre asked about the dry hydrant. Hardy answered that they are still studying it. When they have a plan they will have to discuss a cost. Dean Hollins is sure there is no shut off valve and that the pipe goes through the building to the outside. LaPierre asked if the Fire Department would use the hydrant. Hardy explained that the hydrants on High Street are black, or non-serviceable. The hydrant at the corner of Water Street and Chadwick Hill Road puts out 90 gallons per minute. They do need the dry hydrant to be accessible year round. O'Brien asked if they should make a recommendation to put the dry hydrant on the Fire Departments CIP. She would recommend the Fire Department put \$10,000 in the CIP, or put \$5,000 each year. LaPierre asked if Hardy saw a problem with where the snowmobile trail comes down Chadwick Hill and crosses Water Street. Hardy explained. Hardy explained that there is a provision in the law saying that if the town does maintenance clearly and conspicuously on a Class VI road, one could

petition the town to reclassify it as a Class V. Whatever they do to improve that area will cause more people to use Walker Pond. Hardy feels they should do it appropriately. McNaughten asked if they wanted to make it a Class V eventually. Hardy doesn't know how they would do that. From a width stand point it wouldn't conform to the 60 to 65 foot wide requirement. O'Brien noted that CIP is due tomorrow morning at 11 am. They already have Walker Pond going onto the Warrant. Adding this to the CIP would enhance it. It would be coming out of the Fire Department's CIP. Hardy noted that the Conservation Fund has unique sources of revenue. There aren't a lot of Conservation Commissions that see 100% of land use change tax or have been successful doing a timber cut and having the support of the Select Board in keeping those dollars. He is reluctant.

New Business:

- Abbe Re-Appointment: A **motion** to reappoint Abbe was made by Carrier, seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Group events and activity planning – discussed above. Fall Festival. From a Primex standpoint, if they are having something in the Town Forest, it needs to go before the Select Board. Liability waivers also need to be done.
- Mark Kaplan is working on Master Plan and will have something to pass along.
- Merrimack County Boat Ramp: Easler presented. She is in a Certified Public Manager's class and she needs to do a CAP Stone project that is over and above what she does on a normal basis. She talked with Hardy about working with Merrimack County regarding the Boat Ramp and turning it into a recreational area. The Administrator to the Commission spoke with them and they were agreeable to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaboration. It is close to Franklin. Franklin is growing immensely and they have a lot of recreational opportunities and this would be a big draw to Boscawen. Niebling noted that there is an exemplary silver maple forest there that is not subject to flood control. Easler has been speaking with Ross Cunningham, the Administrator to Merrimack County Commissioners. O'Brien explained where it was located and presented pictures. Easler stated that it is 9.34 acres. It's all shore land. There's no place to swim in Boscawen, which has been discussed forever. This area is a shallow area and it's such a huge area and they would like to see it turned into a state park with barbeque grills and a recreational area. It seems to be the only low banking area that they have seen. She will put together a conceptual before and after plan to present. McNaughten can find out if Fish and Game is involved. Hopefully they are not, because they wouldn't be able to allow swimming with boat traffic. O'Brien presented a video of the area. Easler would like to ask the Conservation Commission to help her if she needs help or has questions.

Cousens wanted to thank Jeff Abbe for all his work at Old Home day. Abbe conducted a tour on Sunday for the new Forest. He'd like to recommend that next year they have a more specific destination like the Weir Homestead or the Walker Pond. Secondly the Rail Trail, with all due modesty, he and LaPierre were instrumental in bringing it to Boscawen and they are adding some more sections. Hardy asked how they have worked out the relationship with the rail riders. Cousens explained that they still have another coating to go over the top. O'Brien explained that their lease is until 2024.

Niebling asked if there were anyway to have DOT to clear the trees on the bank across from the Hannah Dustin parking lot. It's grown up. If it could be cut back they could enjoy the vista.

LaPierre spoke regarding the Snowmobile Club's desire to fix the trail by Marshall's. They were wondering if they need permission. Hardy asked O'Brien to put them on the next agenda.

O'Brien noted that AgCom purchased an advertising banner and wondered if the Commission would like to do so as well. If so, she could draft up some ideas. It is under \$100.00. They can use it for fund

153 raisers or walks. A **motion** to make a sign not to exceed \$100, was made by Carrier, seconded by
154 Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.

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156 The test run for the meeting time of 6:30 pm was tonight. Staff is trying to condense meetings. One
157 suggestion was to condense time and have Conservation Commission meet at 6 pm on Tuesday and ZBA
158 at 7 pm right after. She will send out the meeting schedule for 2023. She wanted to wait for them to
159 approve the scheduled until when she gets the draft done and presented. Their department manages 10
160 committees. O'Brien will not be here next month. Easler announced they have a new employee, Amy
161 Forbs, who lives in Boscawen. She started last week. She will be working mornings 4 days a week.

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163 A **motion** to continue 6:30 pm meetings was made by McNaughten, seconded by Cousens and passed
164 by a unanimous vote.

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166 A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm was made by Cousens, seconded by Hardy and passed by
167 a unanimous vote.

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169 **Non-Public:**

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171 **Next Meeting:**

- 172 • October 18, 2022 @ 7 PM

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175 *Respectfully submitted by*
176 *Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*