

## **Nelson Conservation Commission**

**Approved Minutes Monday, January 17, 2022**

Library Lower Meeting Room

In attendance: Dave Birchenough, Brenna Kucinski (Select Board liaison), Anne McBride, Kathy Schillemat, Kathleen Vetter, Janet Yardley

Minutes taker: Dave Birchenough

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

### **1. Approval of November 15, 2021 meeting minutes**

Kathleen Vetter moved to accept the minutes written by Anne McBride. Anne seconded. All approved.

### **2. Approval of December 13, 2021 meeting minutes**

Kathleen Vetter moved to accept the minutes written by Janet Yardley. Janet seconded. All approved.

### **3. Conservation News and Issues**

- A. Janet summarized last summer's news about Nubanusit Lake's **Lake Host Program** at the Hancock boat landing. She also spoke about NH Lake's promotion of Wake (or ballast) Boat limits as proposed in HB1071 in the 2022 Legislature and a Cyanobacteria Study Commission which will hopefully be approved by the NH Legislature in 2022.
- B. Kathy provided an update to the 2021 Lake Host Program at Granite Lake.
- C. Kathy shared her excitement about her resulting images of coyotes and otters using an automated field camera.
- D. A project proposal to NHDES by Granite Lake resident Jonathon Lobell, 78 West Shore Road was reviewed by the committee. No objections were raised.
- E. Kathy will review the timeliness of David Johnson's wetland restoration plan and communicate with NHDES if necessary.

### **4. Partridge Woods issues**

- A. Kathy reviewed progress of the new trailhead parking lot on Old Stoddard Road which will replace the Homestead Lane parking lot.
  - The kiosk on Homestead Lane parking lot needs to be moved to the new lot.
  - Dave will coordinate with Antioch's Steve Lamonde about changes and additions to the large poster that was designed last year. The student that helped produce the first draft has graduated and is no longer available.
  - A new bridge over Bailey Brook from the new parking lot to Holt trail needs to be designed. Dave will coordinate with the Trails Committee to design, provide costs to the NCC and install once approved.
- B. A continuing parking problem on Old Stoddard Road near the lower falls of Bailey Brook Trail was discussed. No immediate solution was reached.

### **5. Conservation Easements**

- A. According to the 11-15-2021 NCC minutes, Kathy will draft a letter to the two landowners of the Collins conservation easements. Ann McBride will then review and provide any recommended input.

## **6. Public Programs, Workshops and Goals**

- A. Lots of ideas were shared about what workshops we might sponsor in 2022. Current ideas include:
  - Brett Thelen, Harris Center staff at KSC, will lead another Barberry Pull workshop on the Bailey Brook Trail on June 20, 2022 at 9:00 - 11:30.
  - Kathy Schillemat, in coordination with the Harris Center events calendar, will lead a Spring Beauty Hike in Partridge Woods in May 2022.
  - We might lead a hike during Old Home Week.
  - Maybe Eric Aldrich will lead a wildlife camera talk.
  - Someone might give a talk about pollinator habitats.
  - Additional discussion at later meetings is needed to finalize a plan.
- B. The Nelson Town Forest designation process was discussed to be presented at our Town Meeting 2023. We must be ready with all details by the end of 2022 to be part of the Town Warrant for Town Meeting 2023.
- C. The *New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions* (NHACC) resource was discussed. All NCC committee members are encouraged to subscribe to their email newsletters by clicking [here](#). If you're reading a hard copy, google to [nhacc.org](http://nhacc.org), click on the top *Membership* tab and then click on the *New Commissioner* link directly below.

## **7. NCC Members and leadership**

- A. Discussion of a new NCC member to fill the vacancy left by Sarah Wilson.
- B. Kathleen Vetter has volunteered to take minutes at our Monday, February 21 NCC meeting at 7:00 pm in the Library lower meeting room. Kathy will prepare a minutes taker's schedule for subsequent third Monday of each month meetings.
- C. Kathy Schillemat's term is complete in March, 2022. We need to determine who is willing and able to steer this ship.

## **8. Road Salt and Lakes**

- A. Nelson's lakes are subjected to increased chloride pollution due to road salt applications by our highway department in winter. Granite Lake is especially affected since it is a lengthy asphalt road and storm runoff carries the road salt directly into the lake. Granite Lake road is a state highway but Nelson is responsible for winter maintenance. Our highway department claims they use less salt per mile as compared to NH state standards. Are there any other methods of highway treatment that would mitigate the salt runoff? We are not aware of any other solutions.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm.**