

**Nelson Conservation Commission
Minutes of October 22, 2020 meeting**

Kathy called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Attendees: Kathy Schillemat (chair), Gary Robinson, Anne McBride (minute taker), Sarah Wilson, Rob Germeroth, Tom Newcombe, John Taylor-Maule, Janet Yardley (via Zoom) and Patsy Beffa-Negrini.

1. Patsy Beffa-Negrini: Carbon Cash-Back

Patsy discussed her involvement in climate change work. She gave us three handouts: 1) information from the Citizen's Climate Lobby; 2) the Carbon Cash-Back Coalition about a new bill (HR 735); and 3) a proposed warrant article petition to the Board of Selectmen, which is a resolution on climate change. She is looking for our support. Members of the commission agreed to review the information so we can discuss when Patsy returns at the November meeting.

Patsy left the meeting after this agenda item.

2. Approval of September minutes

There were three proposed amendments to the draft minutes. The minutes should reflect that Gary was the one to bring up the subject of the Stewardship Plan, not Anne. The date of Gary Kinyon's final letter was June 10th, not 5th. Also, Janet was going to look into the telephone poles, not Anne.

There was a motion to approve the amended minutes by Sarah, seconded by Gary. It was unanimously approved.

3. Budget approval

We reviewed the 2020 budget so that we can propose a 2021 budget for Town Meeting. Sarah asked whether the Emerald Ash borer situation would create any expenses for us. Kathy said we could choose to spend money on outreach and education, but otherwise any landowner with an infestation of Emerald Ash borer would choose to

handle it their own way. The issue shouldn't affect this budget. Someone asked whether we need to increase the budget for any potential legal expenses.

There was a motion to approve the proposed budget by Rob, seconded by Tom. It was unanimously approved.

3. Expenditures

There were three expenses needing approval: NHACC dues, NHACC conference fees for 2 people, and reimbursement for daffodil bulbs.

- Gary made a motion to approve \$225 for NHACC dues. It was seconded by Rob. There was unanimous approval.
- Tom made a motion to approve \$70 for NHACC conference fees. It was seconded by John. There was unanimous approval.
- Rob made a motion to approve \$43.98 for daffodil bulbs. It was seconded by Gary. There was unanimous approval.

4. Homestead Lane discussion

There was a discussion about whether we should go into non-public session. The majority of people didn't want to go into non-public session and wanted to remain transparent.

There was a discussion about whether the Selectboard consulted with Gary Kinyon after receiving the October 7th letter.

Kathy said she reached out to Bill Gegas at the State (our LWCF representative) to apprise him of the current situation and that they are planning to look into the issue.

Someone wondered if issuing stickers to residents would resolve the issue. Kathy said that resident stickers would not solve the Town's obligations under the LWCF grant of providing public access to the property from Homestead Lane.

There was a question about whether there is another access point. It was brought up that we have frontage on Old Stoddard Road.

Rick Church joined the meeting by Zoom at 8:30pm. He voiced his disappointment with the Selectboard's October 14th letter and offered some potential help.

The commission agreed to take the following steps:

1. Meet with the Selectboard at their Oct. 28th meeting
2. Ask if the Selectboard will agree to get more legal advice
3. If yes, ask Gary Kinyon to find out the Town's legal standing for public access on Homestead Lane taking into consideration the Patterson's attorney's points.
4. If no, NCC will plan to meet Thursday Oct 29th at 7pm to discuss next options.

Kathy made a motion to proceed with this course of action, Gary seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Rick left the meeting.

5. Other business

Kathy shared a letter from DES that Bluehouse Trust will restore their wetlands violation on the Great Meadow.

6. Next meeting is hopefully October 28th, which would be a joint meeting with the Selectboard. If needed, we may have a meeting on October 29th, depending on the outcome of the meeting with the Selectboard. We also plan to have our regularly scheduled meeting on November 19.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Tom. It was seconded by Kathy. It was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned 9:22 pm