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**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street
BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360**

<http://www.brooklinenh.us>

**Minutes
Tuesday, July 12, 2022
Conservation Commission**

Present: Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman, (Voting)
Jay Chrystal, Vice Chairman, (Voting)
Tom Rogers, Member, (Voting)
Jerry Jaworski, Member, (Voting)
Brendan Denehy, Alternate Selectboard Representative (Voting)
Drew Kellner, Alternate
Greg Martin, Alternate

Absent: Sean McNair, Alternate, Roy Wallen, Alternate, and Dana Ketchen, Selectboard Representative

Buddy read the rules for the Hybrid meeting:

- Any meeting attendees participating via Zoom are asked to activate the “mute” function until called upon by the chair
- Meeting attendees via Zoom must use the “raise hand” function under the “reactions” tab to participate in the meeting – and will be permitted to comment once and if called upon by the chair.
- Anyone providing comments during the meeting must first identify their name and address
- The “chat” function for Zoom participants will be disabled by the meeting administrator or otherwise not addressed; “chat” items will not be part of the public meeting/record
- Meeting attendees via Zoom will not be listed as attendees in the minutes (except Board members)
- The meeting’s physical location is the official meeting room. Should technical difficulties arise with the remote portion, the meeting will continue at the physical location.

Aidan Maquire – Lake Host Update

Buddy told Aidan he would forward the milfoil reports from the divers to him, so he knows what's happening. **Aiden** said they have completed 450 surveys since June 18, 2022. They haven’t had an issues at the ramp so far. He was able to contact Gary Graaskamp with Fish and Game to ask about spray painting parking lines at the boat launch. He said there has been no issue so far and didn’t see the need. There has been an increase in removing milfoil from boats coming out of the lake. He has staffed Melendy Pond for a few hours on the hot days, but they haven’t had any surveys yet.

Buddy asked if the surveys are up this year. **Aidan** said last year they had about 800 surveys total so about the same. **Jay** asked if he knew whether they found that these were native or invasive milfoil. **Aidan** said he gets an email with the summary of findings that he will pass along to the Board. **Aidan** said he also had exchanged emails with Buddy about finding some more volunteers and then he posted to the Hollis Brookline Community Facebook page to get more volunteers and he has had a couple people reach out that are interested. He will be heading to Concord to pick up a few more uniforms. The Board thanked Aidan.

Milfoil

Buddy said the divers have found some big plants at out around the buoys at the swimming area. They nothing found downstream. Nonnative milfoil doesn't like currant. The divers have just finished up and have left they have removed about 25-30 gallons from the lake and less than that from Melendy Pond. These divers are thorough.

Land Purchase Updates

Jay said they are still working through the compass and tape survey for lot A-4 and B-80. They need the information from the Pan Am for the railroad bed information Eric DiVirgilio has all of those files and he is on vacation at the moment. **Jay** will attend the Selectboard meeting on July 25th and by July 27th and 28th they should be able to start closing on these properties. All the Purchase and Sale agreements are good through July.

Jay said he went to the last Selectboard meeting for the purchase of Lot D-62. Also, we had a resident, Eric Pauer, ask why the tax rolls state that this lot is four acres and the notice said they are buying 7 acres. **Jay** emailed the Compact and tape survey and the deed description, and he explained that it is just what was found when they had done the compass and tape survey. He hasn't heard anything back.

Brendan asked if the attorney could change the term Selectmen to Selectboard in the legal documents that come from her office. **Jay** said yes, he will speak to her tomorrow and if statutorily she can do it then of course.

Potanipo Fish Passage

Drew said there is federal money being applied for to increase fish passage. The New Hampshire project is to improve the fish passage between Lake Potanipo and the Nissitissit River. Tom and Drew met with Jonathan Cohen and the state. There is going to be a zoom meeting Thursday morning and they have asked for the town's input. **Buddy** had mentioned adding flash boards to the dam. **Drew** said the general idea is to add stone to allow a little bit more back pressure, so the fish have an easier time exiting the Lake. The engineer that went out to review the dam said it is more conducive to do this on the boat launch side of the dam. There is some concern about how to keep people out of this area. They may want to add a viewing platform for people to be able to watch from there. They can add a signage area for education purposes. **Buddy** said when they deposit the fish into the lake, they drop them right at the boat launch at the dam so some of them are heading down stream immediately instead of staying at the lake. He would like to know if they would be willing to deposit the fish further down, so they don't go right for the dam and down stream.

Drew said the state owns the boat ramp, The Cohen's had the responsibility to of the dam, and Jerry Farwell has done work to the dam. The Cohan's would like the management of the dam to fall back on the Conservation Commission. **Brendan** suggested they look into who else would have rights to manage the dam. He believes that the Farwell/Winters family had rights to the dam because of the cranberry bog. This agreement may still be in place. The Cranberry bog was around 37 & 39 Mason Road.

Palmer- Bartell (Large Pond) Flow Device

Greg said they had installed the flow device at the large pond at Bartell Palmer area on Sunday. They were out to check it and the beaver are already hard at work. **Buddy** had opened about a 2x2 area of the dam and Saturday. **Jerry** said by Sunday the beaver had blocked it all back up again. **Greg** said they will still need to monitor this for a few weeks. He thanked Brendan for the use of his boat that was a huge help. The total cost of this flow device was \$732.98 and there is some left over material to start building a new one.

BCC Logo – Hats

Dana was unable to make this meeting but sent an e-mail to the Board asking for help to decide what size hats to purchase, the board's recommendation was to contact the company that makes hats and find out what they normally would sell for adult size hats. The Board agreed to have Dana create a hat order.

Drew said they should look onto having some metal signs made with the new logo on it as well similar to the PLC sign. Round sign would like great. The Board has agreed. The Board agreed.

Brookline Town Planner – Michele Decoteau

Michele was in attendance to introduce herself to the Board. She is making the round and attending as many meetings as she can to see what is being talked about and what issues there may be. If there is anything the Board would like Michele to work on in the future just let her know. She has homework for the Conservation Commission the Natural Resource Inventory will need to be updated. They will be working on the Master Plan and updating the Natural Resource chapter would be a big help in this update. **Jay** said they will have to find someone with the expertise to have this updated. **Buddy** was hoping that they would start having the visioning meetings were going to come back. **Michele** said yes, they will be holding more visioning meetings it may not look like the original meetings. **Buddy** said they used to have issues getting the plans from the Planning Board so he would like to make sure that they have the ability to review all the plans. **Drew** said there was a break down somewhere where the plans would go to the Planning Board before it would come before us and then get approved. You also can't scan in a plan and zoom into read it. It needs to be created so it can be zoomed in, and everything expands so you can read it and not just gets distorted. **Jay** said they take a larger project, and they try to see how it fits into the community for example with trail connectivity and open space. **Michele** said the goal is to get the Planning Board cases on the website so everyone can review them before the meeting. **Jerry** said they have hit the 25 % land goal they should look into that. **Buddy** said it is just a goal it doesn't mean they need to stop. **Drew** said a lot of towns are adopting the 30 by 30 goal. **Brendan** said going back 10 years ago there were visioning meetings and there was more than 50% support to own more than 25 % of town. **Buddy** said the town residents have always shown their support for the land purchases and the purchase of more land. **Tom** said the last vote was 117 to 23 in support of the bond for over a million dollars for the land purchases.

Property Monitors

Jerry said after the last discussion they had about property monitors they were going to put out a request for property monitor volunteers. The Board agreed to allow the PLC (Piscataquog Land Conservancy) to find property monitors. **Jerry** said also reached out to PLC to get more information on the property monitoring job. **Drew** said ideally it would be nice for them all to be from Brookline, but he doesn't believe all of our property monitors should be a part of the Conservation Commission. He would like to see more diverse people being property monitors. **Tom** said we have struggled to find people to volunteer for this job. He would like to find people who have the skills to do this, this is not a

lackadaisical job they need to know this not just a walk on the trails. He agrees it is PLC's job to find the volunteers. **Jay** said he doesn't believe that it would be a bad thing for the board to look for volunteers as long as the person is aware of what this would entail. This is not a job where you can just jump into the woods, and it would be time consuming. **Drew** said he agrees he doesn't mind putting out the message for PLC.

Stickney Brook - Railroad Bed

Drew said he mowed the railroad bed and he noticed that the beaver slide or drag by the bridge is getting worse by Stickney Brook. He said he will reach out to see who could come out to fix this. Some rip rap and a few large rocks may fix this.

Horse Droppings along the Railroad Bed

Tom said he had an email from a resident of Stickney Brook Road about horse droppings they said it was getting hard to walk around the piles of horse droppings on the railroad bed. He will reach out to South Line Farms and ask the riders to be better stewards.

Pierce Dam

Buddy said they had discussed at the last Selectboard meeting the town is going to apply for a grant. The state has come out and done a 200 year flood assessment and they're looking at turning it into a grassy field or modify the dam and he feels the Conservation Commission should weigh in on that. This area is a wildlife refuge. **Drew** said he thought that grant was to do some engineering work for pushback on what the state wanted to do. **Brendan** said there is a grant out there to get engineering done. There are two companies they are looking to hire to have something by the end of the month.

Buddy said the other thing they discussed was the grant to buy traffic barrels.

Brendan said they discussed two grants at the Selectboard meeting one was GOFERR (governor's office for emergency relief and recovery) this grant covers Emergency Management needs. Brookline is eligible for up to \$50,000 of this grant money so they reached out to the departments to see if they were in need of anything. The BPW suggested two electronic traffic signs to communicate with the community, traffic barrels, and emergency management radios. The second grant is the ARPA funds (American rescue plan act) Brookline is eligible to get about \$550,000 over the course of two years and have until 2026 to spend. This fund is for infrastructure. The Board has reached out to all the departments to see what they may need. For example, the Fire Department has stated they could use \$100,000 to put towards the newest fire truck, Emergency Management has some ideas. **Brendan** would like to find some money for energy saving ideas in town. The Selectboard will need to come up with general rules on how to evaluate the needs. It will need to benefit the whole town, it has to be infrastructure related, and in the Selectboard's opinion if they took it to town meeting the town would support it. **Buddy** said the Conservation Commission lives on a bare bones budget and if they could come up with something that would benefit the whole community it would be cameras or a security system for the trail heads. There have been a lot of vehicle break-ins at the Bartell Trail Head parking area and the Cider Mill Trail head parking area. They have also had a fire at the Bartell trail by the power lines and when it rekindled, he noticed the game camera had gone missing from that area. **Tom** said they have also had issues at the Parking area by the Sunoco Station. He has spoken to the Police Department, and they have suggested some form of surveillance cameras also. **Drew** suggested the Conservation Commission send a memo to the Town Administrator and the Selectboard requesting security cameras for the trail head parking areas is a good idea. **Brendan** said yes stating that the Conservation Commission requests them and the Police are in support of this idea.

Melendy Woods – Management

Jay said he spoke to Craig Birch about the Forest Management document he had completed for the Melendy Morrill Woods, and he said although the document is 11 years old it is still as valid today as it was 11 years ago. He could update the document for about \$800 to \$1,200 and that is only if they have added parcel to this area. **Jay** said he doesn't believe that they have added anything to this area in the past 11 years. He will pass this information along to Tom Solon.

Non-Public

Jay made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) for the discussion of possible land acquisition, RSA 91-A:3, II (c) reputation, and RSA 91-A: 3, II (l) legal advice by legal counsel. 1-A:3, II (d) for purpose of land acquisition and immediately adjourn the meeting. Seconded. Roll call vote Buddy, Jay, Jerry, Sean, and Greg all voted yes.

Jay made a motion to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes. Seconded by Brendan. Roll call vote Buddy, Jay, Tom, Jerry, Brendan, Drew, and Greg all voted yes.

Adjourn

Jay made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 pm. Jerry seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman, _____

Jay Chrystal, Vice Chairman, _____

Tom Rogers, Member, _____

Jerry Jaworski, Member, _____

Brendan Denehy, Alternate Selectboard Representative, _____

Minutes prepared by Kristen Austin

Next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on August 9, 2022