



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

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

<http://www.brooklinenh.us>

Telephone (603) 673-8855, ext. 216
Fax (603) 673-8136

**Minutes
Tuesday, September 27, 2022
Conservation Commission**

Present: Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman, (Voting)
Jay Chrystal, Vice Chairman, (Voting)
Jerry Jaworski, Member, (Voting)
Dana Ketchen, Selectboard Representative (Voting)
Roy Wallen, Alternate, (voting for Tom Rogers)
Drew Kellner, Alternate
Sean McNair, Alternate
Greg Martin, Alternate

Absent: Tom Rogers, Member and Brendan Denehy, Alternate Selectboard Representative

Dana 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.

Mail

The Board reviewed the mail folder.

Buddy asked Roy to vote for Tom Rogers. **Roy** agreed.

Minutes

Jerry made a motion to approve the public and non-public minutes of September 13, 2022, as amended. Dana seconded. Vote yes 4-0. Dana abstained.

Budget 2023

After a brief discussion **Dana made a motion to submit the budget for a total of \$44,500, increasing the Trail Maintenance line item by \$560. Jerry seconded. Vote yes 5-0.**

Approval of the Updated Trail Policy

Greg said he had run into someone on the trail on an e-bike and started a conversation asking about the bike. What type of bike is it and how and fast does it go etc. The guy has said that this bike was originally set for 20 miles an hour and he was able to modify it to increase the speed to 28 to 38 miles an hour on the trails. He explained how easy it was to modify the bike and you can find all the instructions online. **Greg** said you couldn't tell what class of E-Bike it was by looking at it. They had a great conversation about the bikes and users. He said he was from Massachusetts and that they are restricting the use in Massachusetts, so he and his friend come up to New Hampshire to ride the trails. **Jerry** said he believe this reinforces the need for the policy. He has added the change to the policy to add Class 1 & 2 e-bikes only being allowed on the trails. We also agreed to leave the wording "Please put dogs on a leash". **Roy made a motion to accept the new policy wording presented at tonight's meeting. Dana seconded. Vote yes 5-0.**

Drew said if they need someone to enforce any of this, they may need a Selectboard ordinance to allow them to do that if this becomes a problem. They can approach the Selectboard to have an ordinance put in place at that time. They agreed to have brightly colored signs so people using the trails know that there have been a few policy changes.

Talbot Taylor Dam

Jerry said he has printed the map for Talbot Taylor Preserve. He added the unmaintained trail that goes to the dam. **Buddy** said they should give it a name. **Jay** said they should make this a designated trail so they can put stipulations on the use of that trail if they need to. **Dana** asked how long this trail is. **Greg** said it about a half mile. **Drew** said they should also designate the Sassafras trail as an official trail. to clean this up for the they should officially designate the

Drew made a motion to officially designate the Sassafras Trail as an official trail at Talbot Taylor Preserve and to designate the trail that goes out to the earthen dam trail at the Talbot Taylor Preserve and name it the Dam Trail. Jerry seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

Jerry made a motion to designate the parking area off of High View Drive as the official Talbot Taylor Preserve Parking . Jay seconded vote yes 5-0.

First Ruck Relay Race letter in the mail

Jerry said they have received a letter about the First Ruck Relay Race in the mail and it doesn't look like a request it looks like they have already set this up. They are running from Tevya through the railroad bed to the Milford DPW. This has been advertised already. He believes that the gentleman that is trying to put this together needs some guidance from the Board they will need permission from the private landowners and there will need to be an insurance binder for Camp Tevya. The Board is not opposed to this idea it is a great idea. But the town doesn't own the railroad bed in this area, and he will need the appropriate permissions. The Board also discussed to reroute this race so it will be all on town land. **Drew** will reach out to the gentleman that has put this even tighter.

PB Steering Committee

Roy said now that I have been nominated to be the BCC representative for the Planning Board Steering Committee what do I do. **Jay** said they will hold a meeting you will just need to attend once you get the agenda.

Stone House on the website

Jerry said the took the Stone House page off the website there were some errors that need to be correct on the website. The stone house is not on town property which it doesn't state on the website. It states to park on Pope Road and then explains where exactly where to find the Stone House, but it is on private land. Do they have permission from the private landowner to have people out there. **Drew** suggested to add that the last forty feet of trail and the Stone House is on private property if there are signs posted for no trespassing, please respect the signs. **Jerry** will update the information on the website.

Melendy Pond Walk

Jay said they walked the Melendy Woods with Tom Solon and Susan Holroyd with the Melendy Pond Authority, Scott Butcher (Town Administrator), Matt and Mike from the UNH Cooperative Extension. They were extremely excited with the health of the forest and the size of the forest. They said the town has a good thing going and if they put a bunch of trails out there it could have a detrimental effect on this area. they suggested to keep this area as a true habitat and forest area, they didn't feel that there was any area that they would need to turn it into a meadow area. They thought that at some point foresting would be a good idea but limited and very precise. We don't have to do anything right now.

Jay said he spoke with Tom and Susan and told them the Board had felt like they have been put in the back seat on this project and that the Selectboard and the Melendy Pond Authority have started this project and the Conservation Commission should be involved with all the conversations about the Melendy Pond Woods area. **Jay** said the BCC always thought the wood area was the Commissions to take care of and the Melendy Pond Authority was taking care of the area where the camps are. Tom said he though they should create another committee and have a Conservation Commission member, Selectboard, Melendy Pond Authority, and all the boards or committees that are involved in this area.

Jay said he believed they should invite Mike from UNH back here and have him look at all the forest area collectively to see what would be best for all the forest areas in Town. He also said he would be willing to put on more of these walks to keep the resident's information about the health of the forests.

Non-Public

Dana 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 by Roy. Roll call vote Buddy, Jay, Jerry, Drew, Roy, Sean, and Greg all voted yes.

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

Adjourn

Drew made a motion to adjourn at 8:51 pm. Dana seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman, _____

Jay Chrystal, Vice Chairman, _____

Roy Wallen, Alternate, _____

Jerry Jaworski, Member, _____

Dana Ketchen, Selectboard Representative, _____

Minutes prepared by Kristen Austin

Next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on October 11, 2022