



**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, August 8, 2023
Conservation Commission**

**Present: Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman, (Voting)
Jay Chrystal, Vice Chairman (Voting)
Jerry Jaworski, Member, (Voting)
Brendan Denehy, Selectboard Representative, (Voting)
Roy Wallen, Alternate (Voting for Tom)
Greg Martin, Alternate
Sean McNair, Alternate (Arrived at 8:10pm)**

**Absent: Tom Rogers, Member, Drew Kellner, Alternate and Brain Rater, Alternate
Selectboard Representative.**

Buddy read the Hybrid rules:

- 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.

Buddy asked Roy to Vote for Tom. **Roy** agreed.

Minutes

**Brendan made a motion to approve the public minutes of July 11, 2023, as amended.
Buddy seconded. Vote yes 4-0.**

**Brendan made a motion to approve the non-public minutes of July 11, 2023, as written.
Buddy seconded. Vote yes 4-0.**

Aidan Maquire – Lake Host Update

Aidan said this will be his 3rd season as the Lake Host Coordinator. They have performed about 800 surveys this year. In 2022 they had 1,200 surveys, in 2021 they had 1,100 surveys, and in 2020 they had 1,000 surveys. He said they should be able to run the program until August 30th, 2023, then everyone will be going to college. This year he posted on Facebook that he was looking for volunteers but did not get a response, so he started having the Lake Host employees bring a friend to work. The friends would spend the shift helping the Lake Host employees and that would count as volunteer hours. As of August 4th, 2023, they had roughly 350 staffed hours at the ramp 10:00am to 6:00pm daily unless it was raining. **Jerry** said it seemed like a slow year with surveys, do you think that it was due to all the rain that we had. **Aidan** said he believes that is the reason the number of surveys is down this year. This will be his last year with the Lake Host Program, his brother may take it over starting next year. The Board thanked Aidan for all his hard work on this program over the years. **Brendan** asked if he had any material from the Lake Host program that may need to be forwarded to the Conservation Commission. **Aidan** said yes, he has a spread sheet that he will forward along to Kristen.

Status of trail cameras being purchased with ARPA funds (Brendan)

Buddy said he hasn't had a chance to go further with this.

Milfoil budget line item: We have set aside \$30,000 for the past few years. Is that number still reasonable or does it need to increase to match inflation/true costs (Brendan)

Brendan wanted to know if we had budgeted enough for this year. **Buddy** said yes, this year there is enough but next year they will need to chemically treat again next year they may need to budget more for 2024.

Trail Erosion problems Cider Mill, Sargent, Bartell and Upper Bartell (Jerry)

Jerry provided the Board with photos of the trail erosion. The Board discussed how to fix this erosion or how to prevent it after these heavy rainstorms that we have been getting lately. The Board agreed to meet on the trails with Amos White to discuss best ways to stop this erosion.

Jerry showed the Board the photo of the broken bridge on Hobart. Once you get onto Hobart from Fessenden it is located right there. **Buddy** said he will ask Grover Farwell with the IceBreakers if they could provide the labor to fix this bridge if the BCC provides the material.

Discuss next steps to clear / rebuild the culvert under the rail trail Palmer-Bartell (Jerry)

Buddy said that is a 2x3 granite block culvert built by the railroad company, Eric DiVirgilio found the original plan for this. We could add a retaining wall in this area.

Buddy said he is concerned with the culvert north of North Mason Rd. That culvert is always clogged and there is a threat of the water going over the railroad bed. **Jerry** said there is a gate in front of the culvert that needs to be looked in to.

Review Deed & Plan Granting

Jerry said there is a small piece of land at the end of Sargent Road that belongs to the town. The intention was to put a parking lot at the end of Sargent Road to access the town land. The Board reviewed the map supplied by Jerry. They will need to locate where the piece is and decide if they want to make a parking lot out of it. The board agreed to add this to their project list.

Ghost Train Race (Drew)

Add to next agenda.

Master Plan Steering Committee Update (Roy)

Roy said he attended his first Master Plan Steering Committee meeting. The Board discussed the percentage of land the town currently owns. The goal is to have a conservation easement over the rest of our land. **Brendan** said the last time they did a master plan survey the consensus was most people thought owning 25% of town was a good goal.

General business

Jerry said last Tuesday the Bartell parking lot was closed for the treatment of knotweed he said the whole commission should be notified of these things. **Buddy** said people need to notify Kristen so she can Email the entire commission with what is going on.

Jerry said he and Greg had installed the signs at the Talbot Taylor wildlife preserve.

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) for reputation and immediately adjourn after the meeting. Seconded by **Brendan**. Roll call vote **Buddy, Jay, Jerry, Brendan, Roy, Sean,** and **Greg** all voted yes.

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

Adjourn

Jay made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 pm. **Brendan** seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman, _____

Jay Chrystal, Vice Chair, _____

Jerry Jaworski, Member, _____

Brendan Denehy, Selectboard Representative, _____

Roy Wallen, Alternate, _____

Minutes prepared by Kristen Austin

Next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on September 12, 2023