

**CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020**

In response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus and in accordance with recommendations by State and Federal Health Officials limiting public gatherings, the public is encouraged to temporarily access public meetings remotely and submit comments for public meetings in writing by email: chselectmen@metrocast.net or Postal Mail addressed to Conservation Commission, Town of Center Harbor, PO Box 140, Center Harbor, NH 03226. The public may also submit comments by phone (603) 253-4561. **This meeting was held via Zoom.**

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Harry Viens, Commissioners Karin Karagozian, George Gurney, Don Carey, Gwen Bronson and Alternate Commissioner Maureen Criasia. There were no members of the public in attendance at any time during the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Harry Viens shortly after 11 am, ascertaining that all commissioners were using Zoom features properly and could be heard by others.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

December 12, 2019 - it was noted that these minutes had been previously approved at the prior Commission meeting on February 13, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on the Meredith /Hawkins Brook and Town of Meredith Highway Facility Rebuild (advisory only) - Harry made reference to a recent article which appeared in the October 26, 2020 issue of the Laconia Sun (a link to the article was previously supplied by email to commissioners) that outlined the Town of Meredith's plans to demolish the existing highway garage and rebuild a new facility onsite. According to the article, "the Meredith Conservation Commission has expressed concern in writing, noting the brook is a tributary to Meredith Bay and that the Lavarack Nature Trail was recently developed along the stream's lower portion." That concern was echoed by Center Harbor commissioners, specifically regarding the proximity of project activity to Hawkins Brook & within its buffer zone, and the potential impact of downstream water quality flowing into Lake Winnepesaukee. This commission felt reassured that the Meredith Conservation Commission was taking appropriate measures within their municipality to address environmental concerns, support mitigation efforts, and would monitor

the project going forward. It was referenced that Hawkins Brook begins in Center Harbor and flows into Meredith.

NEW BUSINESS:

NHDES Dredge & Fill Applications/Permit by Notification – Harry reports that he has recently reviewed and signed off on several applications that have been submitted, seeing no concerns. These applications may be viewed at Town Hall; please ask Mary Richardson, Town Clerk for them.

Pollinator Project – earlier this year, Center Harbor resident Arabella Dane shared with Harry some details pertaining to a proposed “pollinator test plot” project that she working on with her garden club in Manchester, MA and wondered about the feasibility and location of a similar test plot in Center Harbor. Harry had previously been in touch with Don Berry at Lakes Region Conservation Trust about using a location at the Fogg Hill Conservation Area in West Center Harbor or preferably a more visible/central location, perhaps in a small area at LRCT HQ on Route 25-b. There are also questions from the Town & LRCT regarding who would be the responsible party for planting and maintenance. Maureen said she would touch base with Don Berry in follow up; LRCT HQ remains closed to the public due to Covid - 19.

Signage at the Snake River Bridge – earlier this year, Maureen approached the Select Board about the possibility of a sign to be placed at the approach of either end of the Snake River (a prime wetland complex), reflecting the town ordinance that prohibits motorized boat traffic in Prime Wetlands. The Select Board voted to do so, and Harry and Maureen worked with Road Agent Jeff Haines on sign color selection, verbiage and placement. The signs have been made; one sign has already been placed at the Lake Winona end at the Town’s boat launch area. The Lake Waukewan end location will be more of a challenge and Jeff will work with the local NHDOT shed personnel to find an allowable site in proximity to the Snake River Bridge opening.

The Select Board has requested that the Conservation Commission expend funds to cover the costs of the signs (\$217.50). As monies presently remain in the Commission’s 2020 operating budget, a motion was made by Maureen “to expend the funds from the Conservation Commission’s operating fund balance to cover the costs of the signage”. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous. Harry will notify the Selectmen’s administrative assistant of the decision.

Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) Funds Received in 2020 - Harry reports that a total of \$28,400.00 was generated in LUCT funds in 2020 and 50% of that, i.e., \$14,200.00, will be deposited in the Town’s Conservation Fund this year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Fogg Hill Conservation Area 2020 Conservation Easement Monitoring Report – Maureen noted that she had not seen to date the 2020 easement monitoring report from Rick Van de Poll and will email Rick and query its status. Once it is received from Rick, Maureen will distribute it electronically for review to the Select Board and the commissioners.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

ADJOURNMENT: Having heard no further business to come before the commission, Harry wished the commissioners happy holidays and adjourned the meeting at noon.