

CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021

Commissioners present: Karin Karagozian
George Gurney
Maureen Criasia
Don Carey (arrived at 10:19 am)

Commissioners absent: Harry Viens, Selectmen’s Representative
Barbara Picard (newly appointed by Select Board)

Attending from the public: No public attendees present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by Commissioner Criasia, after being requested to Chair the meeting by Commissioners Karagozian and Gurney.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to waive the approval of the minutes dated November 20, 2020 until the next meeting was made, seconded and voted unanimously. It was noted that several sets of draft minutes will need to be approved at the next meeting, and their dates will be posted on the next agenda.

Old Business:

- a.) Posting of the Snake River to motorboat traffic – possible additional outreach measures needed. Commissioner Criasia showed the other commissioners photos of the two signs the Town had placed, one at the entrance of the Snake River at the Town’s Lake Winona boat launch and the other at the entrance to the Snake River from Lake Waukegan. It was reported by Commissioner Criasia that the Legionnaires of Christ (property owners bordering on the Center Harbor side of the Snake River) were notified of this ordinance in writing by the Select Board when their permit was recently issued for their annual camp event. A suggestion was made for the Select Board to officially notify the Town of New Hampton Select Board of the ordinance; Commissioner Criasia will discuss this with Selectmen’s Rep. Viens. It was the consensus of the Commission that no further official notification / outreach by the Conservation Commission to other entities would be necessary at the present time.

- b.) Fogg Hill Conservation Easement – Lakes Region Conservation Trust survey work progress: Commissioner Criasia received an email on 6/3/21 from LRCT Stewardship Director Dave Mallard. He is currently working with surveyor Jim Hambrook and hopes to have the surveying work needed completed “by fall”.

- c.) Review process of NHDES applications – The entire Commission agreed that the key to the success of the Commission’s prompt and timely review of applications arriving at Town Hall is the Town Clerk’s willingness to immediately scan and email the application materials to Commissioner Criasia for perusal, triage and distribution to other Commissioners as needed. The Commission is appreciative to the Town Clerk for these expeditious measures. No changes to the current process need to be made.

New Business:

- a.) Updated commissioner contact list for commissioner use – requested by Commissioner Karagozian; all agreed that the “ancient” contact list needed an update. Commissioner Criasia will amend the current one she has in her files and will distribute at the next meeting.
- b.) Town email account / address for the Commission – requested by Commissioner Karagozian. All Commissioners agreed that it is a very good idea and that it should be monitored and used by the Chair of the Conservation Commission for commission matters. Commissioner Criasia offered to work with Town Hall staff to get this set up and ensure that it is properly noted on the Town’s website.
- c.) Newly appointed commissioner, Barbara Picard – Barb Picard returns to the Commission after several years and was appointed by the Select Board during their meeting on June 2, 2021. She was unable to attend this meeting but will plan to attend the next scheduled one. She has offered to reassume her duties as “clerk” if the Commission so desires.
- d.) Recruitment of additional commissioners – this was brought up by Selectmen’s Rep Viens in an email when pondering agenda items for this meeting. We are always looking for interested others to join the Commission, either as a full commissioner or alternate.
- e.) Term staggering of current commissioners – It appears as if the majority of Commissioners are up for reappointment in the same year and it is desirable to have a staggering of Commissioners’ three-year terms. Commissioner Criasia offered to work this through with the Town Clerk, and explained that with the “reset”, Commissioners may need to be reappointed and sworn in sooner than when their current term expires – all Commissioners understood.
- f.) Selecting a new Chairman of the Commission – with the recent shift of Selectman Viens from Acting Chairman to Selectmen’s Representative of the Commission, it has become necessary for the Commission to elect a new Chairman. Commissioner Carey motioned to elect Commissioner Criasia as the new Chairman; this was seconded by Commissioner Gurney and voted unanimously.

Additional Business:

- a.) Center Harbor representative to the Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee (WWAC) – this volunteer opportunity was posted on the Town’s website. Commissioner Criasia contacted the Chairman of the WWAC, Donna Van Ness. She has recently interviewed a potential candidate and hoped to have this person approved at the WWAC’s meeting on 6/4/21.
- b.) Commissioner Criasia noted that today and tomorrow is the “NH Gives” 24- hour event, an opportunity to support our regional and statewide non-profit conservation partners, including the NH Association of Conservation Commissions.
- c.) Annual Report – it was voted unanimously by the Commission to combine the 2020 and 2021 Annual Reports given that the covid pandemic precluded much of the Commission’s work in 2020.
- d.) The Commission agreed it was time to return to a quarterly schedule of meetings. To that end, the next scheduled quarterly meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 8 am. The Commission will evaluate the new day of the week and time at that meeting.

Adjournment: having heard no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Criasia, Chairman