

CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Commissioners present: Maureen Criasia, Chair
Karin Karagozian
Don Carey
Mark Hildebrand
Harry Viens, Selectmen's Representative

Commission's Clerk present: Barbara Picard

Attending from the Public: Gayle Lacasse

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Chairman, Criasia.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the draft meeting minutes of September 7, 2022 by Karin Karagozian; seconded Mark Hildebrand. All in favor.

Introduction of Public Attendee: Chairman Criasia introduced Ms. Lacasse to the Commissioners.

Old Business:

a.) Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee (WWAC)/NHDES October 12, 2022 Presentation -- Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP):

Commissioner Criasia attended. An overview of deep-water sampling results were reviewed for Lake Waukegan, Lake Winona and Hawkins Pond. Water sampling results from associated tributary testing was also reviewed and discussed. There is a second, more in depth meeting planned (to be scheduled sometime over the winter), where the WWAC and NHDES will be looking into how, based on the watershed restoration plan from 2016 and these results, water quality within the Waukegan Watershed could be more effectively mitigated.

b.) Letter Template for 2023 NH House and Senate Bills:

Once there is some information released early in 2023 addressing the environmentally related bills coming out for the legislative year, the Commission could begin to discuss the template letter for submission of comment to these bills as early as their next meeting in February 2023. One bill returning in 2023 is House Bill 4053 pertaining to the setback for solid waste disposal from surface water. This bill was passed by the House and Senate and vetoed by the governor in 2022. A recent attempt to override the veto failed and the bill was promptly refiled.

c.) Update -- Survey Work for Proposed Boundary Line Agreement (BLA) Between TML 229-003 and Fogg Hill Conservation Area (TML 229-004):

Ames Associates, who was originally earmarked to complete the survey project for the Fogg Hill BLA and other needed and necessary survey work, has advised Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) that they are currently unable to complete a boundary survey as described, as the scope of work is too large. LRCT is in the process of finding another surveyor to complete the work on this area of 235 acres.

d.) 33 Bean Road, Moultonborough -- Project Update:

Commissioner Hildebrand has been consistently attending the Moultonborough Planning Board meetings regarding the Koss Project. He reports that Koss' current application was considered incomplete, therefore ongoing review of the project has been continued until December 14, 2022. Commissioners Hildebrand and Carey plan to continue to attend these meetings in the future, and will keep the Commission updated. Selectmen's Rep. Viens told the Commission the Town's attorney remains actively involved in representing Center Harbor's interests in the project.

New Business:

a.) 2022 Conservation Easement Monitoring Report -- Fogg Hill Conservation Area:

Our 5-year contract with Rick Van de Poll to conduct the monitoring of Fogg Hill will conclude in 2023. This year's report was recently submitted, and was reviewed independently via email by all commissioners. Over the past several years, the Commission has seen significant improvement in the area including clean-up, ongoing stewardship, and an increase in the number of visitors and locals utilizing the property. In order to fulfill the scope of a project begun in 2010, LRCT will continue their endeavors to expand the conservation of this area of unfragmented land through the procurement of any available undeveloped parcels contiguous to Fogg Hill.

b.) 2022 Conservation Commission Annual Report:

Commissioner Criasia will begin writing the Annual Report. She motioned that the Commission dedicate the annual report to commissioner George Gurney in his memory; seconded by Don Carey, all are in favor. The Commission reviewed a recent photo of Mr. Gurney which will be included in the report.

c.) Conservation Fund Status as of October 31, 2022:

The Conservation Fund balance as of October 31, 2022 stands at \$97,536.35. Commissioner Criasia was told there will be no LUCT contributions for 2022. Selectmen's Rep. Viens will confirm. There were no disbursements from the fund in 2022 thus far.

d.) 2023 Conservation Commission Budget Appropriation:

For the year 2022, \$1,000.00 was approved for the Conservation Commission's operating budget. In 2022, Five hundred and ninety-five dollars (\$595.00) has been disbursed - NH Assoc. of Conservation Commission dues (\$250.00), the two well attended co-sponsored vernal pool workshops at Center Harbor Woods (\$125.00), and on the Hawkins Pond deep water sampling analysis (\$220.00). Commissioner Criasia proposed the Commission request \$1,000.00 for 2023, which will enable the Commission to participate and partner in future public outreach events at Belknap Woods in honor of George Gurney. The proposal was seconded by Mark Hildebrand and all were in favor.

e.) NHDES Groundwater Protection Ordinance Review with Planning Board:

The Planning Board was approached by the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) last month regarding a grant driven project involving the current NHDES groundwater ordinance, and whether some of those measures could be appropriately incorporated into the Town's Chapter 10 Water Resources Conservation Overlay District (WRCOD). By the time LRPC reached out to the Planning Board, there was a participation

deadline that could not be met. However, the Commission agreed that a review of the groundwater ordinance was important. Therefore, Commissioners Criasia and Hildebrand (also a Planning Board member) will begin the review of the groundwater ordinance in the coming months to assess if and how portions of the ordinance might be pertinent to the WRCOD.

Additional Business:

a.) Status of Commissioners within the Commission:

Barbara Picard is no longer a legal resident of Center Harbor, therefore under RSA she has had to resign her official commission. However, she has agreed to continue serve on the Commission as a volunteer in the role of the Commission's clerk. The Commission is grateful to Barbara for her continuing dedicated involvement with the Commission.

b.) Collaboration between Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS) and the Conservation Commission in 2023:

In the past, the Commission has worked closely with the LRCT, and supports exploring opportunities to work with SLCS, another conservation partner, this coming year. Working together on outreach efforts, such as presentations and/or events (e.g., guided hikes on a Center Harbor property like Center Harbor Woods) would be a great way to ensure this collaboration.

Public Input: Ms. Lacasse reflected on the important role the Conservation Commission plays in the community.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 a.m.

(The next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission will be at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2023)