

Center Harbor Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes: 3-22-2018

- 1) **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Acting Chairman Viens. Present were Commissioners Gwen Bronson, Karin Karagozian and George Gurney. Ben Grunwald and Maggie Upham from the SLA were also present.
- 2) **Agenda Review** – No changes were made to the agenda.
- 3) **Swearing In** - Commissioners Bronson and Karagozian were sworn in by Town Clerk Mary Richardson for a new three year term.
- 4) **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes of the September 11th 2017 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Gurney moved to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Karagozian seconded and the vote was unanimous.
- 5) **Review Correspondence** –
 - a. A membership notice and invoice from the NHACC was received. Ms. Karagozian moved to continue membership in the NHACC, Mr. Viens seconded and the vote was unanimous.
 - b. A recent bank statement was received showing a Conservation Fund Balance of \$72,938.15. As there are no current projects, the funds will continue to earn interest.
 - c. Permits. Several permit applications were reviewed, primarily for dock replacement in kind. None were selected for comment to DES.
- 6) **Old Business** –
 - a. Mr. Viens stated that he had recently been made aware that in the past the Conservation Commission had awarded a scholarship for a needy student to attend a conservation oriented camp. Ms. Karagozian was serving on the Commission at the time and noted the practice was stopped because conservation funds could not be used for private purposes. Given this restriction no further action discussion or action will be taken.
- 7) **New Business - Ms. Upham and Mr. Grunwald** introduced themselves and explained that are members of Squam Lakes Association and Americorps volunteers. Their project is to create and host an invasive species program focusing on removing invasive vegetation at selected sites in the Lakes Region and wished to coordinate the events with the conservation commissions of the Towns involved.

This event will be expanded over time, hopefully to include more Towns and sites throughout the Lakes Region. The effort will include a communications program to recruit volunteers. A complete plan for the program will be provided to the Town in mid-April. Their goal in meeting today was to introduce the concept to the Conservation Commission. All the commissioners felt this was a very positive program, are looking forward to receiving the complete plan and will support the effort.

- a. The Species of interest are:
 - i. Bittersweet
 - ii. Honeysuckle
 - iii. Autumn Olive
 - iv. Knotweed
 - v. Burning Bush
 - vi. Multiflora rose
 - vii. Barbury
- b. The sites to be worked on are:
 - i. Holderness (2 sites)
 - ii. Ashland (1 site)
 - iii. Moultonborough (3 sites)
 - iv. Center Harbor (1 site)
- c. The event will be held on May 19th, 2018

In addition to the program discussion, Maggie and Ben updated the Commission on some of SLA's initiatives which include testing the lakes for toxins and developing a tributary sampling program. This program will involve conducting upstream tests of lake tributaries to identify areas where toxins may originate. Grants are being sought for this program to ensure enough data is collected to provide a clear picture of any source points that should be addressed.

8) Additional Business – Ms. Karagozian indicated she would like to develop a program to reduce use and consumption of plastics in Center Harbor. She noted that the current recycling program at the local transfer station in Meredith really takes a very limited amount of plastic waste for recycling meaning that lots of plastic just being thrown away. This program could be an education program or volunteer effort to reduce use of plastic containers etc. It was suggested the town take the “lead” by switching from bottled water to a central water cooler station. Mr. Viens noted that the bulk of bottled water at Town Hall was primarily stored for emergency response/preparation purposes. Having central water cooler stations can be investigated for on-premise consumption.

9) Public Input – None

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Viens