

**CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2020**

**Present:** Commissioners George Gurney, Gwen Bronson, Don Carey and Alternate Commissioner Maureen Criasia. **Absent with Notice:** Acting Chairman Harry Viens and Commissioner Karin Karagozian. In Chairman Viens' absence, Maureen Criasia was asked to chair today's meeting.

M. Criasia called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Commission reviewed the draft minutes of the December 12, 2019 meeting. Motion made by D. Carey and seconded by G. Bronson to approve the minutes without changes. Vote was unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **2020 Commissioner Reappointment:** Commissioner George Gurney was reappointed by the Select Board to the Commission and sworn in for another 3-year term. The Commission expressed their appreciation to George for his continued service.
2. **Review of Hawkins Pond Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) Sampling Results:** M. Criasia reports that she has been in email contact with Sara Steiner, Coordinator at NH Dept. of Environmental Services VLAP to explore the possibility of having Ms. Steiner attend a future Conservation Commission meeting and present the data analysis of the water sampling of Hawkins Pond. Ms. Steiner is willing to come and give a presentation. The Commission discussed alternative options for a presentation day and time in lieu of having the presentation held in conjunction with a scheduled meeting. The preference of the commission would be to have the meeting held in the early evening on a Wednesday, just prior to the Select Board meeting. This would give the Selectmen an opportunity to attend, as they have been responsible for reviewing the VLAP reports in the past. M. Criasia will contact Ms. Steiner and coordinate a date and time with the Selectmen's office.
3. **Lakes Region Planning Commission Culvert Inventory & Assessment Report:** M. Criasia updated the commission; the culvert report has been completed and submitted to the Road Agent for review. It will become an accessory document to the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. It will serve as a guiding document and a tool to help identify areas of future potential flood impacts.
4. **Global Warming & Climate Change Impacts at the Municipal Level:** G. Gurney has recently attended local discussion groups pertaining to this topic. He reported that the towns of Plymouth and Holderness have crafted warrant articles for their 2020 Town Meetings. M. Criasia noted that similar

legislation was filed in 2007 and the warrant article passed in Center Harbor. As a result of that passage, the Energy Committee was formed. The commissioners discussed possibly meeting with the Energy Committee in the future to share information and strategize. G. Bronson clarified that the nature of the warrant articles was one of recommendation to the State of N.H. G. Gurney suggested that the commission revisit this at its next meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. State of Amended NH House Bill (HB) 102: A copy of the current HB 102 was circulated among commissioners. This bill addresses the ability of municipalities to regulate the distribution of single use plastic and paper bags to consumers. Discussion among commissioners highlighted the concern of a negative impact on the small amount of retail in the village area. It was agreed that the Commission would want to interface with local retailers and the Center Harbor Community Development Association to get their perspective, as a first step. M. Criasia suggested that we continue this agenda item until the next meeting.
2. Conservation Commission 2020 Budget Appropriation- Acting Chair Viens requested that the Commission be notified that the budget appropriation for this year will be \$750, an increase in \$250 from last year. This increase will allow commissioners to take advantage of educational opportunities, such as seminars and workshops.
3. NH Dept. of Environmental Services Wetlands Application Handbook – M. Criasia compiled a group of resources provided by the NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissioners to assist in the comprehensive review and sign off of wetlands applications. A call list of authorized commissioners for sign off is on the cover of the “guide”, so the Town Clerk will be able to promptly notify commissioners that an application has been received. The handbook was given to the Clerk and will be left in her office at Town Hall. D. Carey and G. Gurney expressed in order to provide due diligence, a site visit should accompany a review of the application. M. Criasia concurs.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

The Commission reviewed a letter of appreciation from Roger Larochelle (Squam Lakes Conservation Society for a contribution to stewardship of Belknap Woods II; a note of appreciation from Barbara Richter (NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissioners) for payment of 2020 Annual Membership Dues; a conservation easement report on the Twombly property from the Society of the Protection of NH Forests; and a letter forwarded to the Commission from the Board of Selectmen from Robert Vogler announcing his retirement from the Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee and requesting an appointed replacement be made in his stead.

Any suggestions from the Commission should be forwarded to Acting Chairman Viens for consideration.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

1. M. Criasia reports that the Commission's 2019 Annual Report has been submitted to the Town and has also been posted on the Conservation Commission webpage.
2. Commissioners completed the NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissioners (NHACC) Member Update Form. M. Criasia will submit to the NHACC.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: May 14, 2020 at 11:30 am

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to come before the Commission, M. Criasia adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm.

□