

Town of Bedford
Conservation Commission Minutes
March 22, 2022

A meeting of the Bedford Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, March 22, at the BCTV meeting room at 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford.

7:00 PM Call to Order

Present: Patricia Grogan (Chair), Kathleen Ports (Associate Planner), Stephanie Jones (member), William Carter (Vice Chairman, Town Council representative), Julie Donovan (member), Stephen Clough (Planning Board representative).

Absent: Deborah Evans (alternate member), Gregory Handy (alternate member).

Chair requests Ms. Ports review the agenda items:

Agenda Review: Ms. Ports said we have no dredge and fill applications. We will be reviewing a request for a variance at 7 Birkdale Drive. We have a presentation on geocaching from resident Ken Streeter. Old business – we'll give an update on the planned Cub Day, the Chubbuck site plan, our High School project, the property naming policy, some sign templates, and our logo contest. And other business – updates on the Big Tree program, the Trail Stewardship subcommittee, some survey work that we're having done, property history write-ups, Announcements, and then we will adjourn.

Chair Grogan read the Mission Statement:

The mission of the Bedford, New Hampshire Conservation Commission is to protect, preserve and conserve the town's natural resources and open space land for the common good. This includes stewardship and management of conservation land, protecting wetlands and vernal pools, and the planning and acquisition of land for conservation purposes. The Commission works with landowners to administer State and town wetland regulations, and advises other town boards, such as the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment on environmental impacts and alternate considerations regarding development projects. The Conservation Commission promotes conservation activities and communicates with the citizens of Bedford on important environmental issues.

Our motto is: Keeping Bedford Beautiful.

Chair Grogan asked any questions on the January or February 2022 meeting minutes? Mr. Carter suggests Chair Grogan handle them separately. Chair Grogan said okay, let's do January first. Any questions? Changes?

MOTION: Mr. Carter motions to approve the minutes of the January Meeting. Ms. Jones seconds the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous.

Chair Grogan asked and the February?

MOTION: Mr. Carter motions to approve the minutes of the February Meeting. Ms. Jones seconds the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous.

Dredge and Fill Applications to Review: None

Chair Grogan said seeing there are no dredge and fill applications, we will move on to New Business.

New Business:

George and Debra Bosworth - Review of a variance request for construction of a shed within the 50-foot wetland setback and review of a request for an after-the-fact variance for an existing above-ground pool constructed within the 50-foot wetland setback at 7 Birkdale Drive, Lot 3-7-197.

Chair Grogan said so, Mr. Bosworth. And his representative? Okay, you're already seated. Introduce yourselves and present your application.

Mr. George Bosworth testifies: My name is George Bosworth, owner of 7 Birkdale Road. (Mr. Bosworth's representative testifies) My name is Andrew Villareal with HED Property Management. Mr. Bosworth said I'm applying for a variance for a shed placed in the wetland setback and an after-the-fact variance application for a pool that is also in the wetland's setback. Mr. Carter said just take the Commission through what you sent to us and talk about that please. Mr. Villarroel said okay. We are requesting permission to build a 16 by 24-foot shed. The height will be 14 feet from the finished ground to the top of the peak. The shed will be located within the wetland's setback, being 34 feet from the wetland's setback. We understand that the requirements are to be 50 feet from the wetland's setback. The reason why Mr. Bosworth would like to build his shed in there is because it is the best location for not only having the shed in that location, but also as a safety precaution because that is where the slope starts for the wetlands. To protect that area and prevent any objects or family members or anything that could potentially roll down into this wetland, we would like to place and build this shed in there. Also, Mr. Bosworth has agreed with the neighbors to the left and to the back of his property to permanently remove the existing shed in order to open up the space on his property and also subjected to issues that they were already preexisting with the previous owner of this property. Mr. Bosworth added the shed that's existing now, after getting the property engineered, found that the existing shed part of it is over the line of the neighbors behind me. I had talked to them about building onto that shed or putting another one next to it for a little more room because I had a 40-foot container parked on the left side of my property, and I couldn't empty it until I could build another shed. So, I talked to the neighbors behind me about putting another shed. It became an issue because they had told me that a shed was preapproved by the previous owner, and it was more to the right side of the existing shed, towards the wetlands. So, I started building it. Andrew pulled the permit, and the neighbors came out and were concerned about having two sheds and where it was. So, in more conversation with both neighbors, they agreed that I could put it 8 feet off their property line. They would be happy with that. They would come to the meeting and express that. I suggested that, once I found out that the property lines showed that the shed was on their property, I suggested just pulling the shed down and raising... removing it.

That's why the size of the shed I'm asking for, because of the material I have, I need the room for more than just what's there now. I also told them I would plant arborvitaes, and in the picture, I did buy some already. I would just line the whole back property with those to kind of give that line highlight and it would be natural. Like Andrew said, having the shed not there, because on the plot plan if you look at the plot plan and the setbacks, there's really not a lot of room to put a shed without taking away any part of the backyard I would have. So, that's why I'm requesting that it go where I'm suggesting it. By having that existing shed down, it makes the backyard look more natural and more open. So, with that suggestion, I was kind of hoping that the neighbors would also like that. Mr. Carter asked is that existing shed down? Mr. Bosworth replied it's not right now. Because the 40-foot container, my next-door neighbor was concerned about getting it out of there, so I literally took everything out of there, put it in that shed, in my garage and in my basement just to get rid of that container. So, I did. So, without having to put—what's on the ground now is the materials that we bought for the shed, the new one. I'm avoiding trying to put anything on the ground inside of anything to keep everything natural. It's a beautiful neighborhood. It's clean. It's important for my wife and I to keep that neighborhood and that respectability there.

Mr. Villarroel said if you look at the pictures that we have up, the orange line represents the property line that we have on this plot plan. Chair Grogan asked so the neighbor is on this side of that line, right? Mr. Villarroel responded right. So, that line in here is this orange line [on the photo]. So, this is Mr. Bosworth's property. On this side is Mark's and Amanda's property. This shed was preexisting at the time when Mr. Bosworth purchased this property. This shed in here, which is this shed—you can see there is over—it's almost like one point it's like right on the property line for the abutters behind. Then it's about a foot into their property line. Mr. Bosworth hired an engineer that they basically got all the coordinates with the original plot plans that Mr. Bosworth purchased the property with. They were able to get exactly where the property line is. So, at the time when we applied for this first shed, my assumption when I submitted the building permit to the town was that this property line was about 20 feet away from the actual line. Which we didn't know. Mr. Bosworth added the area behind that shed actually goes back 20 feet. It looks like it's been cleared. To Andrew, it looked like part of my property. Chair Grogan asked is the wetland behind that old shed? Mr. Villarroel replied over there. On that side. Mr. Bosworth said behind that shed is Matt and Amanda's property. Their house, if you're looking at that existing shed, their house is probably 300 – 400 feet to the left behind that shed. Chair Grogan asked where that tarp is is where the new shed is going? Mr. Bosworth said no, no. Mr. Villarroel said I'm going to pull up another picture. Mr. Bosworth said that tarp is covering all the wood. Mr. Villarroel said yes. Basically, the new shed we're planning on moving this whole structure that is not attached to anything right now. We're planning to relocate it 8 feet from that. Mr. Bosworth added it's in place exactly where we want it. That's where the 34- and the 37-foot setback... Mr. Villarroel said so, the new shed will be somewhere in here, basically. Mr. Bosworth said my yard is fairly flat. It has a slight pitch to the wetland side. The way the shed sits, it's up on top of my yard. I didn't want to change any topography of the land to just fit the shed on my property that's there now without changing anything. Other than putting stone around the drip edge of it so that there's no erosion. I mean that's a suggestion. Mr. Villarroel said this new shed, the 16 by 24 feet, what it represents is he will be downsizing the size of the shed because he's going to be permanently removing this original shed that was in place at the time of purchasing the property. He's going to get rid of that shed and he's just going to build a shed on this location because it's the one that the neighbor to the left—he won't be able to see it much as the original one, which it was always an issue from the very beginning which we didn't know until Mr. Bosworth started talking about this project with them. That's when they started opening up and talking about the previous homeowner. He used to do a lot of things without asking. That's when they thought that he wanted to do the same thing, and it's not. So, in order to accommodate their

request, he agreed to take down this shed, which he didn't have to. But he's doing it so he can keep the peace with the neighbors to the left and also keep the peace with the neighbors to the back of the property. This new shed will be away from the abutters from the back—8 feet away from their property line. And it will be basically away from anybody that can potentially see it and have an issue with it.

Mr. Carter said I'm sure there's going to be more variances other than the Conservation one, because as I see here, other than the pool, the deck, 8 feet being from the property line—I'm sure there's a variance needed for that, right? Ms. Ports said the previous owner did receive a variance and an equitable waiver for the home and the driveway setback. And there was an additional variance granted for the hot tub deck and the shed, subject to a survey. That survey was never submitted so the error in the location of the shed was never verified by our department or the building department. And Andrew did pull a building permit for the new shed and was approved based on that old survey. But once the construction started, the Building Department realized that they were too close to the setback. So, that's partly what generated the need to come back and get the right variances. Mr. Villarroel said the way that developed, at the time we were building this new shed, and the neighbor from the back walked across, obviously because he saw us working and there was an issue that I was not aware of, he was not aware of. We thought it would be okay with us just building this shed. He came across and let us know that we should stop, and somebody called the Building Inspector. Somebody made the call to the Building Department, and that's how the Building Inspector came. Because, that morning he went and did an electrical inspection for some work that was done. I met him that morning. He left. He came back a couple hours after when I was building that shed, and he told us to stop because somebody's not happy about what we're doing. We were basically obligated to do so. Again, the overall issue—it was preexisting, and there was never a plan to do stuff without letting the neighbors know. Mr. Bosworth just wants to build this shed so he can keep his lawnmower, a few building materials inside—keep everything—the yard—organized: toys, a bike, things that usually homeowners keep in the shed. Mr. Bosworth said yes, it's motorcycles. I put in a pellet stove, so whatever's left, I need to get it out of, you know, it's all necessary things.

Mr. Carter said I think the only thing I see on the shed is maybe orientate it facing where you can get it another foot or two facing—instead of 34, keep that corner at 37. Can you orientate it so it's further away from—so it's more like 35 or 36 feet. So, you've got that 37 feet right there where your hand is. Now, the other corner at 34—can that be orientated moving that forward so now you're? Mr. Villarroel said so they're both at 37 even? Mr. Carter said it can be, yes. Mr. Villarroel said okay. Mr. Carter said if we can just orientate it that way, then that's fine. Mr. Villarroel said that's really not a problem. Mr. Carter said when we make the motion, we need to make sure that in there is that the tearing down of the old shed is in that motion. Mr. Bosworth said, and I have no problem with that. Mr. Carter said unless it's stated in there and everything like that. Because this will come in front of the ZBA, so we just want to make sure we're clear with what we're saying. Mr. Bosworth said so, my question on that is, will I have the time to build the other one first and then be able to take the shed down? Mr. Carter said that has nothing to do with us. That would be, I believe, ZBA's purview when it comes to... Ms. Ports said you're on the agenda for next month. Mr. Bosworth said okay. Mr. Carter continued so, basically, again, that's ZBA. That has nothing to do with Conservation. All we're here for is the wetlands setbacks and the 50-foot setback. So, what they—obviously they can't build the new shed until they get these. Ms. Ports confirmed. Mr. Carter said so that one stays there until the new one is built. I just want to make sure it's in our motion. Just orientate it so it's more straight towards the ... so we're 37 feet on both corners. That's all. Actually, that's going to move you further away from the 8.7. It will probably move you out another couple feet. Mr. Bosworth said right. Mr. Carter said the neighbor's going to be happy with that because now instead of 8, you'll be 10 feet. Chair Grogan said I agree. Ms. Jones said

that was what I was wondering about as well. Because originally, I was going to ask about why not putting the shed, you know, obviously on your property line, but similar to where it was previously, but obviously if you're trying to help, you know, the situation to the left, it makes sense that you're trying to kind of hide it a little bit further to the right side of your property. Mine was going to be could it be turned to some degree to get it a little bit further away. Mr. Carter said as far as the pool, obviously it's a preexisting—as I see the pictures we have in front of us, it looks like there's a good 3 feet worth of stone around the pool. Mr. Bosworth said it's actually more than that. It's like 5 or 6. Mr. Carter said I think it's 45 feet, so a lot of people come in here looking for 30-35 feet, and this one's only 5 feet away from the setback and it's there. So, there's no reason to have you move it 5 feet. That's more work than it really needs to be. Other than that... Chair Grogan asked anyone else? Mr. Clough said my thoughts are, as far as moving the shed, I don't really think it needs to be moved because it's up. It's not like it's a fixed building that goes into the ground. Chair Grogan asked the old shed? Mr. Clough said well, the new shed. The new shed will be up on cement pylons, right? Mr. Villarroel said correct. It will be on footings 4 feet into the ground. Mr. Clough said yes, so, as far as ecological impact to the wetland, I don't see any at all. Chair Grogan said oh good. Mr. Clough said I would defer to the owner—put it where you want. It looks like you've got the blueprint already drawn up, so. Mr. Bosworth said that was going to be my question. Would I have to reengineer it if I move it? Board answers, no. Chair Grogan asked, anyone else? Mr. Carter said that was only my suggestion. That's up to the purview of the Commission here. Ms. Donovan said also, I think the angle would look nice in relation to the house and everything. Chair Grogan asked can I have a motion? Ms. Ports said excuse me for one second. You can make the recommendation to the Zoning Board that they approve it with a recommendation to orient it and then they can decide if they want to propose that or not. Mr. Carter said we don't have a preset motion here, do we? Chair Grogan said no, you'd have to make it up. Ms. Ports asked is it not on the Staff Report? On the Agenda? Maybe not.

MOTION: Mr. Carter motions that we recommend to the ZBA approval of a 16 by 24-foot shed, not to be any closer than 37 feet from the edge of the wetland, and to say yes to the after-the-fact request for the pool that is 45 feet, to be okay within the 50-foot setback at 7 Birkdale Road, Lot 3-7-197. Once the new shed is built, that the existing shed is removed from the property. Ms. Jones seconds the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Bosworth said thank you. Mr. Carter said good luck. I know you've got another step to go next month. Have a good evening.

Mr. Bosworth and Mr. Villarroel said thank you very much. Have a good week.

Ms. Donovan said I just wonder how many more of these we'll get when people are buying houses without any surveys or anything.

Presentation on Geocaching: Chair Grogan said next item on the Agenda is a Presentation from resident Ken Streeter, who is going to give us an overview of geocaching, pronounced geocaching. I pronounced it right! Opportunities in town. Okay. Mr. Streeter.

Mr. Ken Streeter: Thank you. My name is Ken Streeter. I'm a resident here in Bedford, and I'm glad to present to you about geocaching. My contact information is on this first slide here in case any of you have a need to get in touch with me in the future. Here's an easy way to have my contact information. Hang on. Mr. Carter asked and you're here by yourself, right, today? Mr. Streeter said well, I want to introduce... this is my wife, Nancy Streeter [laughter from the Board] who is with me as well. She'll be

introduced later in the presentation, too, in just a moment. Mr. Carter said oh, okay. Mr. Streeter said thank you. The reason for my being here is I reached out a few months ago to Bill Carter. I was looking for some information about possibly holding a cleanup event with geocachers at one of the Bedford Conservation properties. I didn't have a particular one in mind. I was looking for suggestions or feedback as to what could be useful. Then I got in touch with Kathleen Ports, and then that led to this invite to come to the Commission tonight to present also a little bit about geocaching—seeing that in recent meetings I'd been the topic of conversation and discussion. So, here's what I'll be talking about tonight. I have a slide that introduces myself and then talks about geocaching in general, the community for geocachers, ten more specifically looks at geocaching in Bedford, highlights one of the geocaches in Bedford at Pulpit Rock. And then I have a slide that has my request about the Cleanup Day. If you have any questions as we go along, please interrupt and I'll take the questions as we go along. So, as I mentioned, I'm Ken Streeter. This is my wife, Nancy. I've lived in Bedford since 1992. I'm a dad of 3 kids; grandfather of 7. I have been geocaching since 2003, so for almost 20 years. I'm not an official representative for geocachers. Geocachers are kind of a loose community. There isn't an official organization or hierarchy or anything like that. I don't speak for geocachers, in general, but just as a member of the geocaching community so to speak.

In case you're not familiar with what geocaching is, it is an outdoor activity for the whole family. It involves using a handheld GPS unit to find hidden treasures. There are a couple pictures here of my family having found a geocache. This is almost 20 years old pictures now—one of the first ones we found. This one's actually in Brookline, NH. You've all seen a GPS unit. GPS stands for Global Positioning System. We think of them as being handheld devices that use the 31 satellites that circle the globe to figure out where you are. A commercial GPS unit can determine your location anywhere on Earth to range of about 5 yards under good conditions. An industrial GPS unit can do better than that and is used by surveyors. But those are much more expensive and use some other technology to supplement what GPS does. Most smart phones nowadays though also have a built-in GPS receiver in them, which has similar accuracy to that you'd have in a dedicated, commercial-grade unit. So, almost anyone that has a smart phone now can geocache and do pretty accurate location of where they are.

So, how is it that geocaches are hidden? A geocache is placed at an interesting location selected by the person that's going to put the geocache there. They are typically hidden from view, so they don't attract attention from people that aren't geocaching. But they're never buried. It's kind of a, people think about having buried treasure, it's kind of the conventional thought. But geocaches are explicitly not ever buried because that leads to damage from people trying to find them from digging holes. The geocache's exact latitude and longitude are determined by the GPS unit of the person that's hiding the geocache when it's being placed. So, the question well, what is a geocache container? So, the geocache is typically a weatherproof container that would contain in it a visitor's logbook. They also usually contain a welcome note in case someone finds it by accident. What is this doing here. And they'll also typically contain prizes for people. They can come in all different sizes. This is kind of a regular size geocache container. They are typically Tupperware or a lock and lock style container. This is a sample of one. They come in all different sizes. I'll pass these around in a minute. This is a smaller one. The same kind of idea. You're welcome to open these up and take a look inside some of the items that are in them. This is the typical geocaches, but they can also be smaller or larger than that. Sometimes, this is a container that's a baby soda bottle. This is what a 2-liter bottle looks like before it goes to the bottling factory. It's used as a standard screw on top just like your soda bottle does. This one has a log sheet inside of it that would be signed by the finder. I'll send that around as well. Another example of a very small one... this is called a bison tube. It's a micro capsule like you might put medication or something in. It unscrews and has a little log sheet inside of it as well. Another common geocaching container is a

surplus ammo can. These are kind of the Cadillac of geocaching containers in New Hampshire because they survive our 4 seasons very well. The containers don't crack in brittle cold in the winter. The geocaches are supposed to be hidden in ones that have been repainted so that it doesn't look like a military grade item anymore. These are nice because they remain completely watertight. They can be submerged, and they won't get things wet inside. So, there's still the stash note, and trade goodies all stay dry and usable inside. We'll send that around too. Chair Grogan asked there was no geocache in any of these, right? Mr. Streeter said so there are some little things called travel bugs, which are trackable things that can go from place to place. One of those had one in it. It was a little Snoopy that had a little dog tag attached. Chair Grogan said oh, that was it? Okay. Mr. Streeter said that was a Snoopy, and it has a little tag with it—an id code. Those travel. When a geocacher finds one of those, they would take it with them and put it in another geocache. The person that originally put that into the wild so to speak can then track where it goes and get to see... does it go to England, or whatever. We've taken a few times and made travel bugs, those are called, when we've gone on vacation with the kids. We watched one in Florida, and it has a mission to go back to Bedford, New Hampshire and get placed in a geocache here. We actually had one that did that—a Mickey Mouse that we bought at Disney World, and it made it back to New Hampshire.

What do geocachers do when they find a geocache? They'll sign the logbook. Optionally, they can take one of the trinkets or toys out of the cache. Those are typically used more by the little kids. Then they'll leave one of their own trinkets in the cache instead and then replace the cache back as they found it.

So, I mentioned the geocaching kinds of containers. There are also different kinds of descriptions of geocaches as they go onto the geocaching.com site. I was kind of talking about traditional caches where there'd be just the coordinates for the geocache on the website. But there's also, in some cases, multi-staged caches where the coordinates on the website take you to the first of multiple locations that you would then visit in succession before reaching the final cache. There are also puzzle caches, where in order to get the coordinates for the geocache, you have to solve a puzzle of some sort. And it could be any kind of puzzle—a word puzzle, it could be a mystery to solve, it could be you have to solve a sudoku. So those are puzzle caches. There's also earth caches, which highlight a special geoscience feature and include an educational earth science lesson. Those were developed in a partnership between geocaching.com and The Geological Society of America so that they're trying to encourage people to learn about the Earth. Some geocaches even require special skills or equipment such as rock climbing or scuba diving. There are no rock climbing or scuba caches in Bedford. There are quite a few in New Hampshire, though. There are caches at the bottom of Lake Winnepesaukee, for instance.

So, geocaches are listed online. There's a website called geocaching.com. When a geocache hider wants to have a geocache published so to speak, then they submit the description of where it is to approvers at geocaching—that or they're volunteer approvers from the geocaching community and then the cache page gets created on the website once it's approved. The coordinates are published there so that people with a sense of adventure can go and seek it out. This is a sample geocache page that's on the monitor. That's one that actually I've hidden. It's an Earth cache. It is in Mine Falls Park in Nashua. We placed that maybe 15 years ago now.

When a geocacher wants to go out geocaching to find some caches, then they need to figure out what geocache they want to go look for. So, geocachers can go to the website and review the listings there for caches that are appealing to them. When they find an interesting cache that's listed there, they can put the coordinates for that geocache into their GPS, which will then direct them to the cache's location. So, you can search for caches. This search that's on this slide shows the nearest caches to the Pulpit

Rock Conservation Area's parking lot. It's on New Boston Road. So, those caches are ones that are, for the most part, in Pulpit Rock I believe.

There are some requirements for geocaches to be approved. One of those, as I mentioned, is that they're never buried. Geocaches are never put on archeological sites where people seeking them out could do damage. They're also never at potential terrorist targets, such as under a major highway bridge, or on a dam, where having a hidden container there—people looking for would be suspicious and could be dangerous. There are other restrictions like those that aren't listed here just for brevity. There are many pages of rules. A geocache hider is responsible to regularly maintain their cache. That includes insuring that the container is watertight and remains clean, so that finding the geocache is a pleasant experience to people instead of finding a soggy mess of stuff inside. Also, geocaches—there are some prohibited items for going in them. Geocachers know not to place these in them. But once in a while the geocache will be found accidentally by a member of the public that's not actually geocaching, and they might see the logbook and leave some things and take some things too. They might not know what the rules are about things you can and can't leave. So, matches, lighters, knives, food and drink because that may attract wild animals to the site, illicit material isn't permitted either. Geocaching is intended as a family activity, so the contents of the container should be suitable for all ages and be safe to everybody. Another thing the hider is supposed to do is to watch out adverse impact that's caused by the geocache placement, which could include erosion from people walking to and from where it's located. There could be disruption of habitat. There could be environmental effects that could occur. So, the hider is responsible to make sure those things aren't happening as well. That's kind of it about the geocache itself.

Then a little bit about the community of geocachers—so, geocache members, in general, promote environmental awareness and appreciation in the same way that a lot of outdoor activities have a “leave no trace” philosophy with them. That pertains to geocachers as well. So, geocachers attempt to leave the natural features undisturbed and will also often collect trash when they're on the way to finding a geocache or back to the car afterwards. Geocachers like to be viewed as good stewards of our natural resources and enjoying the outdoors in this way.

Some benefits of geocaching to the community – so, many geocachers practice this “cache in / trash out” policy—CITO (it's abbreviated and said by most geocachers). So, like when we go geocaching, we have trash bags in the pack that we always take with us so we can pick up litter that we find going to and from the cache. Geocachers also monitor the caches of others, through regular visits, to ensure that damage isn't being done to the area. Geocaching, I think, is an excellent way to teach our children about the joy of nature and being outdoors, and the importance of maintaining it.

Specifically, now, looking at geocaching in Bedford – so, in the Bedford Conservation Areas, there are dozens of geocaches that have already been placed and are in existence and have been for quite a while. Pulpit Rock is the location in Bedford where there are the most geocaches. There are about 10 active ones there, that includes the oldest geocache in Bedford. That geocache was placed on the 9th of February, 2002—so a little over 20 years ago. I guess it had its 20th birthday last month, and it's had 281 visitors to it in those 20 years. There's also a geocache on the Bedford Village Common. There's a couple in Benedictine Park. There's a half dozen in Earl Legacy Park. There are 3 on the Heritage Trail out along the Merrimack River. There's about a half dozen in Joppa Hill Farm. I haven't found all those. I'm not entirely sure. There's also more in Amherst because the Joppa Hill Trails continue through into Amherst and then come out at Pulpit Rock. There are geocaches all along through there. There's a couple in Muller Park and Sebbins Pond, and also 4 in the Van Loan Preserve. Mr. Carter said well, you've covered

all the areas. I don't know where we're going to find another area for you to put one! [laughter]. I think you've got them all out there.

Mr. Streeter continued, so, this is a map. This is a screen snip. It's kind of hard to see here. This is a screen snip from the geocaching site from my view when I log in. So, the caches that I have found have a little yellow smiley face to indicate that we have found those ones successfully. If there's one, we looked for and didn't find and log that online, it has a blue frowny face. There's one of those kind of right in the middle that we weren't able to find. The ones that we haven't searched for or recorded that we looked for them yet online show with a different circle icon that corresponds to the geocache type as to what the icon looks like. You can see there's quite a few there between Joppa Hill and Pulpit Rock. That's where most of them are.

A few things to say about the Pulpit Rock geocache – so, the geocache for Pulpit Rock is intended to provide a walking tour to near the Pulpit from the parking lot that's on New Boston Road. It was placed over 20 years ago, as I mentioned. It has 281 finds that are recorded online. That geocache is a multi-cache which has multiple waypoints. So, if you go to the first location for that, that waypoint is surveyors' tape that's wrapped around a tree. That tape has latitude and longitude written on it in Sharpie of where the next waypoint is. Surveyor's tape isn't prevalent, by any means, the waypoint marker. But it is the one that was used for this cache long ago. This cache happens to have the original logbook still in the geocache from 20 plus years ago. So, you can go there and see everyone's entries that have visited it over that time. Incidentally, we found it in July, 2004 is when we went there. The picture there is actually a picture of my family looking for one of the waypoints of the cache. Ironically, it was our 2-and-a-half-year-old that found it first at the time. I was looking in the wrong place. [laughter]

An example of some of the online logs—after a geocacher finds a geocache, they then go online, and they'll put an online log about their visit. These are samples of quotes from visitors to that Pulpit Rock geocache. I'll read through some of these because they illustrate some things about geocaching.

“This was a beautiful area that I had never been to, and I have lived here all my life. I am excited to go back. I love geocaching. It's exercise with a purposed and Grampa Cardigan always brings you to unique places.” Every geocacher, instead of going by their real name on the website, they have a login name—a handle. One of these is Grampa Cardigan. He's also a Bedford resident and placed this cache in Bedford long ago.

Another quote from a finder, “This cache is winter friendly. This is such a beautiful area! Great plowed parking lot, beautiful and well-marked trails, excellent scenery, and great cache! Thanks for the great cache at a very nice town park! I explored the Pulpit Rock area following the Ridge Trail and Granite Trail. Most of the trails had been well used with snowshoes. Thanks for bringing me here!”

Geocaching—most people go geocaching in the summer or maybe late spring, early fall, when it's warm out. But it is a year-round activity. A lot of people find geocaches year-round, an excuse to get out and do something in the long, cold New Hampshire winters.

Next quote here, “This was our very first cache find. It was very exciting. I also had never visited the Pulpit Rock area, so it was a double bonus. Thank you.” I always find it surprising when I learn of a geocache. They tend to be hidden by people that want to call attention to a specific location that they like or is dear to them. It's interesting how often we, in our communities, have maybe never visited some of the neat little places in our backyard so to speak. I think a lot of people in Bedford have

probably never even been to Pulpit Rock, maybe they don't even know it's there. Geocachers, it's just another way to call attention to some of these natural resources.

Next item here, "The fresh snow made for easy trekking in our micro spikes and hiking sticks with good warm socks and boots. The sun sparkled on the trees. Thanks for bringing us here." I have another slide of these. I'm not sure if I should read all these out, but they help illustrate...

Another quote here, "Enjoyed by first visit to this lovely area. It was nice to see so many families out hiking here on a pleasant Sunday afternoon." Next quote, "Another one of the year 2002 caches that I ventured out to find this afternoon and here I was the lucky beneficiary of the recent cache maintenance. It's always fun to read some of the early logs in a logbook that goes way back. Thanks for the introduction to the Pulpit Rock Conservation Area." So, this cache was placed in 2002. The first geocaches were placed in May of 2000, so the hobby grew kind of exponentially. It was very small at the beginning, and it grew fast in the mid 2000's.

"This was a great way to explore an old classic area. Thank you for bringing us to new parts of this wonderful area." The next quote, "We spend some time hiking in the area today. Having visited the more famous Pulpit Rock across the pond, we wanted to check this one out." I think the reference here is probably to the one in Norway, across the Atlantic Ocean. "It was a very nice hike with some beautiful formations along the way. It was also awesome to see the original log in the final container. We're giving this one a favorite point. All is well!" Two things to mention here: one is it's a world-wide activity. People geocache all over the world. It's actually kind of even become, in some cases, almost a vacation hobby where people will find geocaches while they are on vacation. Or maybe even go somewhere to go geocaching. The other item I mentioned here is favorite points. So, geocachers are allowed to mark on the website up to ten percent of the caches they have found as their favorites. That is the way of advertising to other people—these are ones that other geocachers have found. When a geocacher is trying to figure out where to go find a geocache, they can look and see what other caches are highly favorited, knowing that those will be experiences that they'll enjoy more.

The last quote here, "WOW—not many 2002 hides still around, and this one is like a trophy find." That's what I had in the presentation about geocaching. I'm curious if there's any questions that you might have about that.

Mr. Clough said so it's not the exact location, right, that they give you? Mr. Streeter replied well, ideally, it's supposed to be. So, the intent is that the locations on the website are the exact GPS location of where the geocache is. However, given that the accuracy is only good to about 5 yards, 15 to 16 feet, and that accuracy is when the hider placed it, their coordinates could have been off by up to 16 feet. Then when you're looking for it, your coordinates could be off by another 16 feet on top of that. So, in general, when you go somewhere and your GPS says it's right here, you have to realize even when it's saying it's right here, it could be 30 feet away from you. Mr. Clough said yes, because half the fun is trying to find it. Mr. Streeter agreed half the fun is trying to find it. So, it's not close enough that you could say oh, it's exactly here. Ms. Jones said or stumbling upon one accidentally. That's always fun too. That's happened to me where I didn't even realize there was one in the area, and lo and behold it's right there below a rock. Mr. Streeter said nice! We've done it before, and we've been on vacation and we think oh, I'll bet you there's a geocache near here. Then you pop your phone out and look and say, yes, there's one that's like over there! Mr. Carter said when you got ahold of me about this, I'll tell you right now I don't know anything about it and I said well, we'd better get this in front of Kathleen and any way... and at least I'm kind of selfish because I'm looking at that Clean Up Bedford—the CUB Day to try

to entice more people to clean up the areas. It sounds like geocaching is pretty strong here in the Town of Bedford. You're probably walking by one and not knowing you are. I think this is great! I'm trying to figure where we could do this because it looks like you have, I was going to say Pulpit or Joppa Hill Farm, but it sounds like there's quite a few there already. Mr. Streeter said geocaches placed—yes! So, what I initially approached about, I guess is my next request here. That transitions very well into the request portion.

I was looking to find out the Commission's perspective on being able to hold a Cache In, Trash Out event. That is, instead of placing a geocache in a location, a geocacher announces to the community, via a listing on the website, I'd like to have an event at a certain time and place. Some of those events are social events—just get together and talk, and some of those are for a purpose. Purpose events are Cache In, Trash Out events, which started out as being just cleanup events. But it also can include trail maintenance or digging out invasives or planting trees as well. Basically, the kind of things you would do to maintain the outdoor area. I was interested in hosting one of these events this spring, and it would be a way that geocachers could contribute to the beautification of Bedford Conservation areas. I've held one of these previously in Nashua many years ago, where we cleaned up the waterways. The geocachers for that event, we had them bring their own boats. They brought kayaks and canoes, and then we cleaned out a lot of waterways in Mine Falls Park. So, we paddled the canal and stream and the cove and cleaned things up there. At one of the events, geocachers typically expect to come on a certain day and pick up litter remove piles of junk, or whatever. I expect, given attendance of these in recent history here, that probably about 20 geocachers would attend. That might not just be 20 people. It would be 20 geocaching names and it might be a mom bringing her kids. It may be just a husband and wife. It may just be a teenager that geocaches on his own that could come to this event. And Bill mentioned the possibility of doing it coincident with the Cleanup Bedford Day, depending on how much work is needed for that. That's one of the things I was looking for the Committee's perspective on. The other one is, when I looked at the geocaches in Bedford, and I'm an abutter of the Ash Bog Conservation Property. There are currently no geocaches in there. Much of that land is not really suitable for a geocache being wet and bog or swamp—whatever you want to call it. But there's portions of that that are elevated and raised, and I know that our family has enjoyed walking and hiking and indeed the cross-country ski trails long ago used to be in that Conservation Area before they went to Earl Legacy Park a couple decades ago. I'm also curious about if that would be permitted for the Conservation Commission would allow that too. Mr. Carter said we could do that, but could we put it where there's roads that are around Ash Bog and the Scott Trail, as being roads to be picked up. Can that be part of your geocaching? Mr. Streeter said road cleanup would be a possible part of a geocaching cleanup activity. Mr. Carter said I wouldn't think that Ash Bog area would be that heavily trashed. Mr. Streeter said correct. Oh, sorry, there's kind of I crossed two different topics there. One is properly placing a geocache in Ash Bog. I agree with you. Having walked the Scott Road Trail recently, I went to the Inaugural Kickoff Meeting of the Trail Subcommittee this last week. I signed myself up for being one of the maintainers of that trail in Ash Bog there. It's a clean trail. There's no need to do any cleanup along that route. Mr. Carter said maybe a geocache where there might be a T-shirt inside there. [laughter]. Ms. Jones said that's a good idea. Mr. Carter said that's what I got those for—as I'm driving around if somebody's there doing that—well, we'll talk about CUB when we get to that. Chair Grogan asked any other questions for Mr. Streeter? Ms. Jones said I think it's a great idea if you're looking for a location, like you said, that doesn't have as many geocaches, but to also add to the wealth of geocaches here. It sounds like you found a property that makes sense and, like you said, proximity to and then your interest in the Trail Stewardship Committee. To me, that seems like a natural choice for you. So, I think it's awesome! If, in the future when you have done your Cache In, Trash Out, I think it would be awesome if you did a presentation in front of maybe local residents. Obviously, they have access to this recording, but your

thoroughness of presenting how to go about geocaching and, you know, its history and your experiences with it. I think it would be very valuable to share that with other residents in future dates just to add on to this list. Mr. Streeter said thank you. That's a good idea. Mr. Carter asked is there ever prizes that, if say there's 20 or 30 sites in a town that if somebody attains getting 10? 15? 20? That maybe there's awards? Or is it just more what's in the container as being the reward? Mr. Streeter said that's a good question. So, there aren't official prizes for that kind of thing. However, there is another category of those puzzle/mystery caches. It's kind of a subcategory, which are called challenge caches. That might include a challenge such as finding 90 percent of the caches in Bedford. There's a very popular one in New Hampshire to have found a geocache in all 243 towns in New Hampshire. [Someone on the Commission offers the correction of 234]. Mr. Streeter said thank you, yes, there's 234—all 234 towns. The New Hampshire 234 Challenge. So, there's no prize for doing that other than there's an online honor roll of all the geocachers that have found all 234 towns in New Hampshire. Mr. Carter said so it's not like they could put all these and then send as an email that says to Kathleen Ports, send her an email with the? Chair Grogan said you don't get a patch. [laughter from the Board]. Ms. Ports said we've been talking with the Library about some kid programming. So, we could create our own program involving the geocaching. I would suggest talking to the Library about doing a presentation for them. I can put this on our website. Mr. Streeter said the presentation that Stephanie mentioned too could be a Library kind of presentation? Ms. Ports said yes. I think that would be great. Ms. Jones said they're great there. When we had the—I can't think of the day. I know you're doing the Big Trees soon in conjunction with—the Bio Blitz, yes. So, when we worked with the Bio Blitz, it was in conjunction with the Library. I think that they are a great platform for educational presentations, especially combining... Ms. Ports said lots of family interest, so a lot of families came out to the Bio Blitz. So, I think they'd be interested. Chair Grogan said it's a great thing for families. They'd love it. Ms. Jones said I had a question about for CUB Day, what would you... would you need to do further steps to get what he's looking for in terms if Cache in, Trash out? Or is it kind of simultaneously happen? Mr. Carter said well, anyone coming into town—there's five locations to pick up the cleanup bags. They would have to grab a couple blue cleanup bags from one of the five locations and when they're done, leave it on the roadside. That's basically what CUB is—cleaning the roads. After winter, the snow goes and the trash stays. So, we need to spend some time. This will be our second year. So, yes, I don't think there's anything extra. Obviously, you'd want to put a cache, it's called a cache? Mr. Streeter asked a geocache? Mr. Carter said geocache there in the Ash Bog area and let people walk around picking up trash in the area, right? Ms. Ports said yes. We could do a potential hybrid so the parking lot out at Muller Park tends to collect a little garbage. There are some other chores there that need to be done. So, I had talked to Ken about that site. Maybe we could capture some of the roadway there. So, that's one idea. Mr. Carter said anything that brings publicity to the CUB Day. Ms. Ports said really, it's our roads that are garbagy—not so much our properties. Although the Hawkman property might be another option. I don't think—that's on the Heritage Trail—I doubt it has a geocache. Mr. Streeter said I don't know specifically where that one is. There are, I've mentioned, there's about 3 along that portion of the Heritage Trail. There may be more. I may not know, necessarily, where all of them are. If it's like a puzzle one, if I haven't solved the puzzle, I might not know that that's where it is.

Ms. Donovan said actually, there was another organization about 12 years ago—before I moved to New Hampshire—but my daughter was in Nashua, and we went with the children, and you had your little stamp and you filled in the book, and you had the stamp and you put it back. There were three of them on the Heritage Trail, because I did that pre me getting here. But I can't remember the name of what it is. Mr. Streeter said letterboxing. Ms. Donovan said thank you! Mr. Streeter continued, and I didn't mention it. I didn't mention a lot of things about geocaching—a lot of the details. I could go on for a couple hours, but there are some geocaches that are called letterbox hybrids, which are a crossover for

both different hobbies. So, they'll have an ink stamp that you take, and you use your ink stamp in the logbook, and you use the one there to mark that you've been there. Ms. Donovan said it was perfect for a 2-year-old, a 4-year-old and a 6-year-old. That's who I went with—my daughter and that's how I discovered Bedford before I even planned to move here. Mr. Streeter said wow!

Chair Grogan said so we have to make a motion, but now... Mr. Carter said I don't think there's a motion. Chair Grogan said no? Okay, good. We're good. Mr. Carter said I would think we just let the Streeters work with Kathleen to put something together. Obviously, the PSA and all that is done—already out there on Facebook and stuff. I guess this is a good way to start somewhere. If we get 10 people this year, maybe this Fall we do it again when we do our Fall cleanup day and then go back and next Spring and try to draw people in to do this. It's a great idea. I'm not a geocacher. Chair Grogan said I never knew about it. Mr. Carter added when you emailed me about it, I'm going well, yah, let's see. Chair Grogan said I never heard of it, but now I'm thinking I was hiking once and there was a box like that camouflage box that was on the side of the trail. I'm like, don't touch that! I didn't know what it was, and I was like, oh my God! What is that?! We were like backing away from it. [laughter]. So, now I know what it was. Mr. Streeter said okay, so it sounds like I should work with Kathleen to figure out specifics of what we could do—whether that be in conjunction with the Clean Up Bedford Day, and we maybe have overflow. We can figure something out.

Mr. Clough said the Boy Scouts also, my Troop has a geocaching merit badge. So maybe our Troop could get involved with you to place one like maybe at the waterfall sanctuary or something like that? Mr. Streeter said oh, that would be awesome! Ms. Ports said that's a great idea. Mr. Clough said just get the boys—I mean, the demands of that merit badge are not high, but there are quite a few requirements. Ms. Ports said I think that would be fun. We have unimproved Conservation Areas that are in neighborhoods, so those might be other places where you could do a geocache. Mr. Carter said Steve, is that Troop 5 or 414? Mr. Clough said Troop 5. Mr. Carter said actually, Troop 5, I had a leader reach out to me about cleaning. And I believe, either they're going to go to the Woodbury or one of the other schools. They kind of request not to be on the roads. So, I try to give them an area where they can clean and not have to a lot of road exposure. I know at least Troop 5 and 414, I'll be putting them at that side of Town. Ms. Ports said I would make a plug for the parks—so, the ballfields—the softball field, the one on Nashua Road closer to 101. I cleaned that myself last year. It was a lot of garbage. Mr. Clough said I'll bet Chubbuck gets a lot of litter too, because of people flying down that road with their garbage. Mr. Carter said the two groups of Scouts that have reached out to me will be in those two schools down off of County Road. Obviously, you've got SAU property, and you do have a park out in the back there, too. So, there's a lot of area for them to do. Chair Grogan said it's endless. Mr. Carter said it's endless of what we can do with this. Thank you for coming in tonight and explaining this to us. Mr. Streeter said you're very welcome and thank you very much for your time.

Chair Grogan said okay. Are you ready to move on? Mr. Carter said yes, Madam Chairman. Chair Grogan said okay Bill. Can you give us an update on the CUB Day?

CUB Day: Mr. Carter said well, certainly. CUB Day is coming up. It is Saturday, April 16th from 9 to 1. We did the PSA for BCTV last week. It's actually out on Facebook and the Town website. Ms. Donovan said it looks really good. I looked at it this morning. Mr. Carter said good. Thank you. It's amazing what you can do in two takes out in front of the Old Town Hall. It's really great to work with BCTV. We also have one running on WBNH-LPFM Bedford 105.1. We did the radio one for that. So, those are all out there. We're getting a lot of emails—a lot of people interested. It was a great time last year for the two times that we did it. The Spring is probably the more pickup space and time, because of winter and once

the snow goes, everything shows up. So, but yes, it's going to be a great time. There's a lot of things going on with that, and actually if you watch the PSA, or when you watch the PSA, I'm going to be driving around that day. I've purchased a limited-edition number of CUB Club Cleanup shirts in safety green. So, you're not going to be missed. This is the official logo of the CUB Cleanup Club, and on the back in case people want to know what you're doing, we've got the word CUB on the back. So, it's something I'm going to be out there and about if you're out there and I see you, I'll throw you a T-shirt. I have a limited number. I've just got a couple dozen just to try to add a little bit more excitement to that. Chair Grogan asked do you want to mention where to pick up the bags again? Mr. Carter said sure—the Town Library, Town Office Building will be a location, the Safety Complex where the Police and Fire are. There will be a box there. There will be a box at the Farm at Joppa Hill, and anytime, doesn't matter if it's the 16th or any time, the Transfer Station has them. The bins for the 4 locations—obviously there's not going to be a bin at the Transfer Station because they have a spot for them—starting April 2nd there will be bins out at each of those locations. Because I know a lot of people have called up and emailed me and said well gee, it's Easter weekend. But this allows you to go there early. If you want to spend the weekend before, just grab the bags. Fill the bags. If you want to leave them on the roadside, I have commitment from DPW that they see a blue bag, they're going to pick it up. DPW will be out the day of the 16th driving around, picking up the bags. Or else just take the bag and bring it to the Transfer Station on your next stop at the Transfer Station. So, those are the 5 locations. It's going to be a fun time. It is—I know, I live on the 2nd busiest road in the Town of Bedford, and we took a walk on Sunday and we're going to have a lot of work to do. There's quite a bit of roadside trash. Ms. Donovan said, and the wind was really blowing on Election Day, and my paper recycling blew all up Old English Road! So, I had to pick that up, so if it happens to me, and I'm very careful—Bill can you email me? Mr. Carter said what I'll do is I'll email Kathleen, and Kathleen will get it out to the Commission? Ms. Donovan said yes, could you do that before Thursday because Bedford Women's Club meets Thursday. Mr. Carter said I will make sure she has everything. Ms. Donovan said because I'm organizing it, and I'd like to show them something. Mr. Carter said and the last thing, and this is something that we worked with the Town Council on and the Men's Club in town has graciously stepped up to be the first to do this, is on Wallace Road, we're going to have road signs made up. So, as you come in from Merrimack and coming in from Goffstown, there's going to be a 30 by 24 roadside sign saying that Bedford is a CUB Community to Keep Bedford Clean. So, this is a test. This is what we're going to do. Every time I go Merrimack, I go into other communities, they have these that we try to keep our Town clean. Well, the CUB is a good way to do that, working with the DPW, Jeff Foote and his staff there, to put this together. So, this is something that we hope to have in place and unveil on the 16th. But sometime this Spring we will have these about 200 feet in from the town lines of Goffstown and of Merrimack. Chair Grogan said great. Mr. Carter said thank you.

Chubbuck Site Plan - Chair Grogan said so Bill and Kathleen, do you have any information on the Chubbuck Site Plan? Mr. Carter said we will be having more in the coming months. We do have our new Town Councilor, Kathleen Bemis, who is the alternate here on the Conservation Commission. She happens to live abutting the Chubbuck property. I believe we do have some other members joining the Conservation Commission, that were looking to join, that live in that same community. Once we get them on board, I will be moving that to their purview, since it's in their backyard. That's the update concerning Chubbuck Road. Chair Grogan said Kathleen? Ms. Ports said sounds good. There was a lot of interest at the Trail Stewardship Committee about Legacy and the Chubbuck area as a whole, and additional opportunities for trails. I think it's ripe for discussion. Chair Grogan said okay. Please brief us on anything from the High School.

Bedford High School - Ms. Ports said I checked in with the high school. They are having logistic issues with transportation. I suggested they could potentially do a mini project right on campus. They have a conservation area right at the high school where PLC holds a conservation easement. There is trail access back there, so that could be kind of a neat spot to do some game cameras. In that case, they would have to just work with PLC, I believe. I'm not one hundred percent clear yet whether that project will officially occur on any of our properties. Chair Grogan asked do you want to talk about the naming policy?

Property Naming Policy – Ms. Ports said at the February Workshop, we reviewed the proposed names for the unimproved conservation areas, and those were approved. We also looked at criteria for naming properties in the future. That was approved. I printed the criteria out for you today for you to add to your binders. On the backside, I also worked on a nomination process so that if someone wanted to name a conservation area after an individual, we had a process for doing that. I guess, actually, you guys could take a look at that and either let me know if you have any questions or edits to it. If not, we could probably take a motion to approve the nomination process for naming conservation areas after an individual. It's modeled after the Parks and Rec Department had a policy in place, so I basically used it. Chair Grogan asked and the sign templates? Ms. Ports said can we stop for just a second... are you guys good with the nomination process? [Board agrees, yes.] Ms. Ports said okay, great. So, you can clip that into your binders.

Sign Templates – Ms. Ports said also in February we looked at a presentation on the variation of signage that we have out at our Conservation Areas and talked about the potential to do some standardization, and also add signs at some of the unimproved areas where there is no signage now. Based on that meeting, I've developed some templates for you guys to look at today. There are printouts on the tables around you. The first one is a property name sign. This would be metal, and it would be used at an unimproved conservation area. My thought is that we would also use these at some of the larger conservation areas at the secondary access points. Sometimes those are just trails on a road. Sometimes there's a small parking lot. For example, Pulpit has probably at least 4 additional access points beyond the parking lot at New Boston Road. We could use a sign like this at those locations. At the Workshop, we agreed that we wanted to stick with our Boy Scouts style conservation property name signs. I do love those signs, but I'm thinking that the metal will be a little—hopefully—will last a little bit longer. That's why I'm proposing those for these locations. I just did a couple color schemes and layouts. I did actually have a small group of members do a sort of a preview for me, and this lettering seemed to match what we had on the signs from the Boy Scouts. That's why we went with that lettering style, and then I just did two different layouts for where the logo positioning would go. Mr. Carter said the wood being brown, so that the lettering would be probably yellow? Ms. Ports said well, these are metal signs. Mr. Carter said on, metal—so it would be a white sign. Mr. Ports confirmed it would be a white sign with either—this has a green trim with a brown lettering. Then this one's the green lettering with the brown trim. We could also wait on colors until we have our logo, and we know what that color scheme is. Mr. Clough said looks good. Ms. Ports said oh good. Alright, then these are the rules signs that we talked about. We are open sunrise to sunset—not dawn to dusk. That's captured at the top. There are just two differences here. The one on the left is where you are allowed to bicycle. The one on the right is where you are not. Somewhere it got cut off, but the one on the right also has the reference to the Town Code. That would be on either sign option. Then just a simple message that if you have an emergency, to call 911. We had talked about including logos and point of contact information on these signs, but I think just for simplicity and standardization, so we don't have to keep changing them, the simpler, the better. That's how we ended up here. Also, different properties have different—some properties are under Parks and Rec. Some are under the Conservation Commission. We can provide that detail on the

kiosk. So similar brown with green trim on this one. This is how I'm thinking we would lay them out. You would have the name that would be horizontal, and the rules vertically—similar to the style you see on the left there. Does that look good? [Board says yes.] Ms. Ports said okay. Do you guys have a preference on wood posts or metal? Do you want me to get costs on both? [Board agrees, yes—costs on both.] Mr. Carter said I think something like that you would want it on a 4 by 4 in the ground. Ms. Jones said yes. Ms. Ports said I like the way the wood looks, but we can do a cost estimate. Mr. Carter said on metal, it would be a stake and then somebody could just bend that. Mr. Clough agrees. Ms. Jones suggest a bear could bend it. Ms. Ports said if you had peanut butter on the sign. [laughter]. Mr. Clough added the other thing with wood posts is when you sink the hole and put the wood in, you can actually pour in dry concrete, and it will solidify. Ms. Ports said yes. We could do that. Mr. Clough said it keeps the bottom of the wooden posts. Ms. Ports said next month I will bring you—well, I shouldn't commit to that quite yet because our next meeting is really quick. I will try to bring you a cost estimate at the next meeting. We can talk about prioritizing or gradually implementing the signs. Chair Grogan said so you will move forward on all the signs? The signs are all set? Everybody agrees? Mr. Carter said that's good. Ms. Ports said great. Chair Grogan asked do you want to go on to our logo contest? Ms. Ports said drumroll.... [laughter from the Board].

Logo Contest – Chair Grogan said we ended up getting quite a few entries. Ms. Ports said yes, we did! I was a little panicked for a while. Chair Grogan said I was so happy for you. Ms. Ports said oh, I forgot. I made these little maps that showed, for example, Van Loan—there's an entrance on North Amherst Road, so we would put a property sign there with the rules. Interestingly enough, this little, tiny access is owned by PLC, so our property starts here. We could put one there. Similarly, these are all access points into Pulpit. So, we could put them there too. Okay. So, we had 14 entries from 12 individuals. We had some amazing entries from Memorial. I just want to thank the teacher and the students who—actually everyone who had the courage to put their artwork out there and be judged. That's not a small thing. They should feel good about that effort. We had a lot of different styles, and a lot of different opinions. We had 4 finalists, but I want to go through each entry real quick so that everybody gets recognition for their work. This is Autumn, and I'm going to apologize for last names—Stavenger. She wrote "Keeping Bedford Beautiful." This is Katy Hyatt who did the recycled sign with the tree in the center. Patrick Schultz captured our Bedford turtle crossing signs. Linh Huynh did the recycling with a community in the center. Palmer Gerstung did—this is actually one of my personal favorites—did a recycling as the center of a flower, which I thought was really clever. Tori Hyatt did our cloudburst above the tree, and then this beautiful, entry number 10, and our turtle. Deidre Menard did a mosaic of the skyline, the tree and earth, and our water resources. I can't remember now who is next. Okay, so Keith Melaas did just this gorgeous drawing. Great job with depth perception, shading on the rocks. I just love this. I might steal it and frame it and put it in my house!

So, our first finalist is Judith Quirk, and you know what—I covered my notes that were in the slides so let me see if I can just pull out her submission really quickly and tell you what she wrote. She wrote that she dropped the word 'Commission' to focus on conservation and that roots are essential to the stability and healthy trees that thrive near clean water and green pastures. And who has not been outside standing in awe of the rare pink sunset over the Mount Uncanoonucs? Lots of beautiful colors in that one.

Our second finalist is Sue Russell, Keeping Bedford Beautiful. She has a tree along a pathway. She wrote that she really wanted to capture the motto and the words, Bedford Conservation Commission. She used the tree and the path because it was simple and easy to apply in a variety of ways.

Our next finalist is Doug Irvine. He lives near a conservation area. He wanted to show the interconnectedness of the Bedford community with our desire to conserve our lands and the stewardship of the Conservation Commission. He submitted—it was probably 6 different variations on a theme, demonstrating what can be done with a simple idea, to adapt it in different ways. I asked him, so this looks like a person. He's like, oh yah, you're right. Lots of ways to interpret things.

Our last finalist was Peter and Brendan Sullivan. Peter is an artist, and Brendan is a graphic designer. They combined their skills to bring us this design, which you might recognize from the back of the car stickers that everyone has. For example, when we go to the beach, we go to Long Beach Island, so you'll see an LBI sticker. It's sort-of like this certain club that knows what that means. So, they used that recognizable and popular style that's out there right now. They picked a single color just so it would be simple and easy to reproduce. Then they just wanted to incorporate all the different elements of Bedford, including our wetlands, our turtles and wildlife. That turtle is actually a Blanding's Turtle, which we do have in Bedford. It's a rare animal, and the maple leaf for the forests.

What I would like to suggest is that two or three of you volunteer to help me make a final recommendation, at our next meeting, for a logo. Mr. Carter asked we're not going to make it a Town contest? No? Ms. Ports said we will be displaying all the logos in the lobby at the Town Offices. So, you could come and see them there. But, no, the thought was that it would be your decision. Mr. Clough said I can help if you need help. Ms. Jones said I would like to help. Chair Grogan said we'll all help! [laughter]. Ms. Ports said okay. So, maybe we can talk about the best way to make a choice. These were the four choices. Mr. Clough said I liked your original email comment that simplicity is important. Mr. Carter said, and I talked to Kathleen about application—how easy to use these in different applications if we're doing hats, shirts, signs. Simplicity is really going to be a key here, because when you take this off to a company to get this done, how are we going to be able to do this. Is it going to be easily embroidered? Is it going to be easily silk screened? I'm just going to leave it up to you guys to decide. I'll have all four, but you can't have all four. Mr. Clough said yes, they are all well done. Ms. Ports said yes. They're all really great, and all really different, too. They tap into different parts of your brain. Okay. So, Steve, you're interested right? Julie? Okay. Alright. I don't know that we can—if we wanted to make a recommendation, it would be ideal if we did it—we can figure out options. Mr. Carter said it's going to be a short turnaround if you're going to try to do it for our next meeting. Ms. Ports agreed, yes. Mr. Clough asked when's the next meeting? Ms. Ports said the 12th. Mr. Carter said we're going to put you all in a locked room, and you're going to fight it out. Which one is going to take the win? Mr. Clough added even the ones that weren't finalists did a good job. Ms. Donovan said yes, they're fantastic. Mr. Carter said oh everyone—it was great to see all of them. Ms. Ports said it was like Christmas getting the mail coming in at my office. Woo! We got a logo! So yes, thank you everyone who submitted a logo, and congratulations to our 4 finalists. Hopefully, you can stay tuned for our announcement in April. I think that covers it for logos. Chair Grogan said okay. Then we will move on to the Big Tree Program.

Big Tree Program – Ms. Ports said our Big Tree Program was postponed for the rain. Ms. Donovan said which didn't come. Ms. Ports said it rained all day! Ms. Donovan said it didn't! I went out and got the mail and it was a fine drizzle. Ms. Ports said oh, you English folks! Ms. Donovan said absolutely! [laughter from the Board]. Ms. Donovan added the Saturday before, I would have cancelled it, because I was out in that sleet and everything in Cambridge, Mass, and it was not nice. Ms. Ports said I am really sorry. I will give you a personal tour of tree identification, and the Big Tree Program. We have 20 people signed up on Sunday. So, 1:30, come out, learn how to identify your trees and help our Town identify where our big trees are on our Town properties. It will be fun. That's a program that I'm hoping we can continue—another activity for kids and families to nominate trees and collect data and figure out each

species of tree. Where's our biggest tree on Town property. If people want to do their own property, they can do that too. We can do nonnative species too, if we want. Mr. Clough asked this is Sunday? Ms. Ports confirmed Sunday at 1:30. We're meeting at the library. Mike Gagnon from the Cooperative Extension and the Hillsborough County Forester will be leading the program. Actually, we have the biggest Red Maple in the state. Mr. Carter asked Joppa Hill? Ms. Ports said yes. It's on Joppa Hill Farm—State Champ! Mr. Carter said wow.

Trail Stewardship Meeting - Chair Grogan said we had our Stewardship Meeting, right Kathleen? Ms. Ports said yes, we did. We had a lot of interest and enthusiasm and a wide range of skill. It was a very fun meeting. I have 40 volunteers on my mailing list. Twenty people came. We did a quick orientation of trails in Town—just an overview of some of the goals that the Committee could consider. Our immediate need was to assign stewards to a trail segment, and to get them scheduled to go to a training. Our Trail Committee—one of our volunteers, Richie Holstein, is a 30-year veteran of trail building. He's the Co-Chair for the AMC Trail Committee, NH Chapter. He's going to be offering some trail maintenance trainings. We're getting those scheduled. Then we're going to ask folks to do their first inspection in April. Then, hopefully, we'll get everyone together maybe outside at the Farm and talk about how it went and refine what we need to refine. We developed an application, which I forgot to bring for you. It's called ArcGIS Survey 1, 2, 3. It's an application you can download on your phone or open in your browser while you're out in the field. You can report a trail issue. If there's a tree down, or you see graffiti or garbage or a trail is flooded because of beaver activity, you can go right onto that website and file a report to the Town, and it will populate a map for us, and we can go out and address it. We're working on tools like that, including some of the other trail mapping that we've talked about in past meetings. I want to acknowledge our GIS Coordinator at Public Works, Brandon Boisvert. He's been working with me on these applications, and he's just been stellar. He's excited about having these tools as well. Chair Grogan said great. Ms. Ports said Steve, you were at the meeting. Do you have anything to add? Mr. Clough said no. I was just surprised at all the enthusiasm. We have more than enough help. Is the spreadsheet all populated now for all the trails? Ms. Ports said yes. I think Heritage Trail isn't. There is a little bit extra maintenance there, because DPW does maintain that trail. I'm not terribly worried about it. Mr. Clough said okay. Ms. Ports added Bedford Village Common and Benedictine, actually, needs some TLC. Benedictine could definitely use some TLC. I'll try to find someone to do that one. That's it. Everything else is taken. Chair Grogan said great. And the JHF Survey?

Joppa Hill Farm Survey – Ms. Ports said I have issued an RFP to have that property officially surveyed. We have a farm lease area within it that was never completely defined. It was just loosely described as 35 acres. So, we have written a lease area agreement and defined where that is. Now we're having that surveyed. Then we're also going to have the outer boundaries surveyed. Much of the monumentation is missing. I'll have that for you in April.

History Write-ups – Ms. Ports said our history writeups—I haven't forgotten. I just got sidelined by other things. Chair Grogan asked any questions? Ms. Donovan said I did check again on Meadowcrest and definitely the turtle sign and the post are not there! Ms. Ports said I did go too. I see one sign, but not the other. Ms. Donovan said yes. The going away from Liberty Hill is there, but the going toward Liberty Hill is not. We were driving very slowly along Meadowcrest looking and there's no sign of anything. Ms. Ports said yes. I couldn't find a sign either. I looked in the woods. I couldn't find anything. Ms. Donovan said, and it was there—honestly! It was there. Ms. Ports said yes. Apparently, we had 2 sign requests back-to-back last year. I missed the second one and never got the request in, so it's on my list of things to do this week. We're going to be requesting additional signs on Jenkins Road south of Beals at

McQuade Brook Crossing. Chair Grogan said okay. Any more questions? [no questions]. I just have a few announcements.

Announcements:

Bedford Transfer Station – Chair Grogan said the Bedford Transfer Station is now accepting food waste. There are special bins for you to dispose your food waste. The waste will be composted on site and finished product will be used to fertilize the Town’s common areas and recreational fields. This is a great program, and the Commission encourages all residents to compost their food waste. You can find more information on the Transfer Station.

Saving Special Places Conference – There is a Saving Special Places Conference coming up quickly on Friday, April 1st, and Saturday, April 2nd. It is a virtual event, and all members are invited to attend. RSVP to Kathleen if you plan on attending so we can provide payment. Kathleen added this is an annual event. I’m sorry that it wasn’t on my radar, so it’s a little last minute. It’s like 2 half days, and it’s a pretty big conference. There are some really excellent speakers who are participating, and then they have breakout sessions. It’s a nominal fee, and the Town will pay for the members to attend if they want to.

Pulpit Rock Subcommittee – Chair Grogan said the Pulpit Rock Subcommittee is meeting April 6th at 6:30 in the Police Training Room and plan for Spring work.

Annual NHACC Meeting and Conference – Saturday, November 5th will be the annual NHACC meeting and conference. Put that on your calendars for now. More information later.

CUB Day – Don’t forget CUB Day is April 16th.

Mr. Carter asked next meeting? What date? Ms. Ports said yes, our next meeting is April 12th, the second Tuesday of April, rather than our normal fourth Tuesday. Chair Grogan said and we have some nonpublic? Ms. Ports said no.

MOTION: Mr. Carter motions to adjourn the Conservation Commission meeting. Ms. Donovan seconds the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Next meeting will be held April 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Forcier