

TOWN OF BEDFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
April 30, 2019

A meeting of the Bedford Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at the BCTV Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH.

Present: Beth Evarts (Chairwoman), Denise Ricciardi (Town Council), Mac McMahan (Planning Board Representative), Dave Gambaccini, Bob Macpherson, Maggie Wachs, Bill Carter (Alternate), Gregory Schain (Alternate) Karen Elmer (Planning Department).

Absent: James Drake (Vice Chair), Catherine Rombeau (Town Council Alternate)

Chairwoman Evarts called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Election of Officers:

MOTION by Mr. McMahan to elect Mr. Gambaccini as Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission. Mr. MacPherson seconded the motion. Vote taken –All others in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. McMahan to re-elect Beth Evarts as Chair of the Conservation Commission. Mr. MacPherson seconded the motion. Vote taken –All others in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Elmer introduced newest member, Gregory Schain.

Sally Kellar, Town Clerk swore in new members Gregory Schain (Alternate Member) and Bob MacPherson (Regular Member).

Approval of Minutes:

- March 26, 2019

MOTION by Mr. McMahan to approve the March 26, 2019 minutes. Mr. Gambaccini seconded the motion. 2 abstentions: Chairwoman Evarts and Mr. Schain. Vote taken –All others in favor. Motion carried.

Dredge and Fill Applications:

- *Town of Bedford – Wetland and Shoreland Permits by Notification for the replacement of an existing dry hydrant adjacent to 95 Sebbins Pond Dr. Lot 34-24-2.*

Description:

Impacts to the wetlands associated with Sebbins Pond are required for the installation of an intake pipe for an existing dry hydrant located along the property lines between 93 and 95 Sebbins Pond Drive. The existing intake pipe is exposed near the edge of the pond. The

replacement of the pipe primarily impacts the land within the 50-foot waterfront buffer. The new pipe will be installed below grade for better protection.

Scott Wiggin Fire Chief of the Town of Bedford discussed an existing dry hydrant adjacent to 95 Sebbins Pond Drive Lot 34-24-2 that needs replacement. The dry hydrant was put in with cast iron pipe in 1959. It is flow tested annually to make sure it functions. In the last couple of years, it has been deteriorating, becoming rusted, and the filters are bringing up a lot of sedimentation. The Town is undertaking road work on Sebbins Pond Road, so he thought it would be a great time to tie it in with the contractor who is working with the town and is willing to do the work under their contract agreements.

The hydrant consists of a strip of pavement that goes from the edge of the curb almost down to the waterfront, 15-20 feet of beach; and then the pipe goes another 15-20 feet into the pond. It is optimal to get about 5-6 feet of water above the pipeline because of ice pack in the wintertime, so that the pipeline does not freeze. During dry spells the pond depth fluctuates up and down. The replacement dry hydrant will be in the same location, be of the same length, and at the same depth; but there is some challenging topography to deal with about 15 feet from where the height of the steamer connection is (about 36 inches below the asphalt to the depth of about 5-6 feet underwater).

The other permit applied for is a shoreland permit and it has already been approved by DES.

Mr. Carter asked if there is a reason it is not being replaced with an updated cistern rather than another dry hydrant. Mr. Wiggin explained the cistern is about 30x30, so it would require considerably more property access and more right of way would need to be taken. It would also affect some of the topography as more dirt would need to be placed over the cistern so that it does not freeze. Using a dry hydrant and getting it right into the body of water seems like a more viable option.

Mr. MacPherson asked if the dry hydrant definitely needs to be replaced. Mr. Wiggin indicated that it does. The dry hydrant was originally installed in 1959 and when it was pump tested it was flaking off big pieces of steel from the inside and the strainer has deteriorated and has been bringing in a lot of foreign bodies into the pipeline. Mr. MacPherson asked what the expected lifespan of the replacement dry hydrant would be. Mr. Wiggin indicated it would be about the same as the one installed in 1959 (about 60 years) or even longer because PVC pipe will be used. The replacement pipe is within the 50-foot waterfront buffer.

Chairwoman Evarts asked if this hydrant services the entire neighborhood or if there is another hydrant. Mr. Wiggin indicated it is the only hydrant that has been there since 1959. Since water was brought to the school the closest hydrant is at the corner of Sebbins Pond and County Roads. There is municipal water in the area, but no other bodies of water that can be drafted from. There is a stream there, but it is only seasonal and not reliable.

MOTION by Mr. Carter to recommend approval for the replacement of an existing dry hydrant adjacent to 95 Sebbins Pond Dr. Lot 34-24-2. Mr. McMahan seconded the motion. Vote taken –All others in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

- **Chairwoman's Update**
Chairwoman Evarts reported that earlier this month she attended and spoke at the Savings Special Places Conference (New Hampshire's annual land conservation conference) along with Bill Jennings, BCTV-WBNH Station Manager. They talked about conservation work we've done in Bedford as a Conservation Commission, the partnership with Land Trust, and the partnership with BCTV to let residents know about efforts put forth by this Commission, past Commissions, and all of the land trust members over the years. The talk was primarily about how to save special places in the digital age by partnering with local television channels, using the town Facebook page, different ideas about how to communicate about conservation and recreation lands, and raising awareness about conservation land, how best to talk to land owners who have land they may not have considered yet, and how to raise awareness for volunteer workdays.

On the Town Facebook Page and on the Conservation Commission landing page Earth Day celebrations were noted. The Earth Day celebration was in conjunction with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant which allowed continued work to be done at Pulpit Rock. The extension of the grant, the work that has been done under the grant, and the work that will continue to be done under the grant was celebrated with Senator Shaheen and a number of other State and local dignitaries at the Pulpit Rock Conservation Area.

Old Business:

- **Update on Pulpit Rock Trail Grant Project**
Chairwoman Evarts reported that we fulfilled our initial 3-year grant and did a site walk with the Trails Bureau last fall and realized that there was a little bit more work that could be done under the Pulpit Rock Trail Grant, and we have been granted an extension through the end of the year. We are currently pulling together information on what we would like to do under the extension, how we can get it done, and looking at what projects will continue under the grant and what projects will be finalized under the grant such as continuing the trail beyond the bridge near Gage's Mill. Once all the information is compiled Chairwoman Evarts will update the Conservation Commission.

Chairwoman Evarts recommends getting out and walking Pulpit Rock and watching the link on the Conservation Commission Page of Senator Shaheen's visit. She called for any ideas from the members of the Conservation Commission that might fit within the guidelines of the grant. Mr. Gambaccini suggested that the bog bridges at Pulpit Rock be tied into the grant.

There is a Pulpit Rock workday this Saturday, May 4th and more information about it can be found on the Land Trust homepage and the Town Facebook page. All ages are welcome (kids are welcome with adult supervision). Volunteers will be clearing trails and brush and picking up trash. Rain date is May 11th.

Mr. McMahan reminded that ticks are out in force and bug spray with DEET is the only thing that will kill them. Standard bug spray may not protect you. Wear long pants and long sleeves, spray around pants, ankles, waist, neck, and any entrances to your clothing.

- Update on trail mapping project and website update
Chairwoman Evarts reported Pulpit Rock, Muller Park and Heritage Trail are listed on trailfinder.info, and Van Loan is soon to come. On the Conservation Commission landing page you can find a link to Trail Finder on the right side. Trail maps will pop up along with photos, and people can upload pictures of the trails directly to the site, or forward them to the Conservation Commission and they will get them up on the site. By the end of the year the goal is to have all of the trails in Bedford on Trail Finder.
- Update on Greenfield Farms boundary marking
Ms. Elmer reported that Greenfield Farms boundary marking is about 99.9% done. Ron Klemarczyk from FORECO did all the conservation easement monitoring last month and found about 12 out of 90 properties that had encroachments on open space land (mostly things like swing sets and sheds). Ms. Elmer has written letters to all homeowners notifying them of the encroachments and is working with them to get the encroachments removed from the open space land and back on their own property. They must get a permit to move sheds and the size determines what the setbacks are. None of them have wetland setbacks, all are just standard property line setbacks.

Enclosures:

- NH Association of Conservation Commission – Legislative Update
Chairwoman Evarts reported that Ms. Elmer has provided the Conservation Commission with the NH Association of Conservation Commission’s legislative update. Read through it and if there are any questions ask. There is a meeting scheduled for April 26th and some rulemaking that will hopefully come down. Read and become familiar with it because it may change some processes that we see coming through.

Ms. Elmer handed out the notice about the Pulpit Rock Clean-up day; a brochure found on the Nature Groupie Website called “Living Next to a Stream” which explains how to treat your property and be environmentally conscious if you live next to a stream; and the PowerPoint presentation that Mr. Drake did when met with Rotary and other town groups prior to the start of work at Pulpit Rock. It has been updated to show the work that has been done thus far.

Chairwoman Evarts touted Nature Groupie which started out of UNH Coop. They have excellent articles and educational workshops. The Commission could even publish a call for volunteers from other towns to help with clean-ups and workdays on the Nature Groupie website.

Ms. Ricciardi noted that in order to graduate students at Bedford high school have to do real-world hours and could perhaps be recruited to help with the Pulpit Rock workday, and she would be willing to contact the guidance counselors if needed. This has been attempted unsuccessfully in the past; however, Chairwoman Evarts would like to explore having a high school Senior join the Conservation Commission as an Alternate as part of their Senior project and welcomes her to touch base with the high school about this.

Other Business:

None

Non-Public Session:

None

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be May 28, 2019. Please confirm with Ms. Elmer whether you will be able to attend or not so that we have an idea of the attendance.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Mr. Carter to adjourn at 7:30 pm. Ms. Wachs seconded the motion. Vote taken – all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Lewis