

Town of Bedford
Conservation Commission Minutes
September 28, 2021

A meeting of the Bedford Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 28, at the Town Meeting Room at BCTV at 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford.

7:00 PM Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Bill Carter (Acting Chair) opened the meeting and introduced members present: Julie Donovan (member), Patricia Grogan (member), Stephanie Jones (member), Kathleen Ports (Associate Planner)

Absent: Maggie Wachs, (Chair), Dave Chiappetta (member), Steve Clough (Planning Board Representative), Bill Carter (Vice Chairman, Town Council member), Becky Hebert (Planning Director), Beth Evarts (alternate member), Denise Ricciardi (Town Council alternate member)

Review of Agenda

Kathleen Ports reviewed the agenda:

Approval of Minutes from August 24.

No dredge and fill applications.

Notice of an upcoming project.

The Crandalls will present their request to build a shed within the 50-foot wetland setback

Old Business

Other Business

Announcements

Mission Statement

Acting Chair Carter 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 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 Zoning Board of Adjustment on environmental impacts and alternative considerations regarding development projects. The Conservation Commission promotes conservation activities and communicates with citizens of Bedford on important environmental issues.

Our motto is: Keep Bedford Beautiful

Approval of Minutes: August 24, 2021

Chair Carter asked are there any questions or comments concerning our August 24, 2021, meeting minutes? If there are no changes, can I have a motion to approve?

MOTION: Ms. Jones motions to approve the August 24 Commission meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Ms. Donovan. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Minutes are approved.

Dredge and Fill Applications:

Ms. Ports reports there are no new applications and states we received a letter from DOT about the proposed Capital Corridor Rail project, which is something you probably heard about. They are moving forward. It's been renamed as the Nashua-Manchester 40818. The DOT is in their preliminary design phases. Most of the project is limited to the existing rail right of way. But there will be up to four stations, and one of those is proposed in Bedford near the airport on the west side of the river off of the Raymond Wiczorek Drive. The letter is just simply requesting any information we have on community plans, natural resources or other environmental concerns either in the corridor or at the proposed station location. Similarly, they're asking if we have any priority mitigation sites that they should consider should they need wetland impact mitigation. That's it.

Chair Carter said looking at that proposal there, I believe it crosses the river just after the airport entrance at the off ramp there? It crosses over into Manchester. Ms. Ports said north of the, yes, near the Heritage Trail property. There's a railroad bridge north, so north of where they would put the station. Chair Carter said I would imagine that this would be on some agenda for the Town Council at some point, especially when it comes to mitigation. Ms. Ports said yes, if they're going to build a station out there, yes, there will be plans at the Planning Board and the Town Council would have to review and approve. Chair Carter asked are there any further questions from the Commission? Ms. Jones asked do we already have a list of potential mitigation sites if it comes to that? Ms. Ports said No. Ms. Jones continued okay. I didn't think so, but I was just curious. Chair Carter added we had this discussion. When it comes to the new lining of down off 114, the culvert there that we really didn't have anything so, maybe we can put that on the agenda for next month for our workshop to maybe start looking at some locations that possibly could be that. I know there's been a lot of talk over the years to try to have rail come up through. I think the costs, what they say, it's going to be a lot of money. Ms. Ports said it's exciting. Other members agree. Chair Carter added oh, it is. That would be a nice little ride down that way along the river and stuff. But maybe we should add that to our workshop agenda next month and maybe a little bit of homework in advance to see if there are some areas that we could enhance with some mitigation if this plan does make it through. Ms. Ports said we will review the survey results later in the agenda for the October workshop. So, we can talk about it then too. Chair Carter said excellent. Anything else Kathleen? Ms. Ports said no. That's it. Mr. Carter said thank you. No action required there.

New Business:

Chair Carter said we will be reviewing a request by the Crandalls to construct a shed within the 50-foot wetland setback on their property at 37 Church Road. Would the Crandalls or their duly representative who is ... there we go, move up to the table here. You're welcome to present your proposal to the Commission.

Earl Sanford of Sanford Surveying and Engineering testifies on behalf of Scott and Judy Crandall: I've been hired to look at this and this proposal and see what would make sense, what would be the most or the least environmentally impacting design. The Crandalls have a nicely landscaped yard, I don't know whether anyone's had a chance to look at it, but there's significant areas that have been very well landscaped. I've got a couple pictures here (presents pictures). They've put vegetation in around the boulders. This is all leading down to ... and just to the right of this is where the proposed garage is anticipated to be. Looking at an aerial view of it, you have ... is everyone oriented ... it's off of Church Street right close to the middle of town. I don't know how far from the church south, but not too far. This is their lot here and what this basically shows is that you have some extreme, hilly... this was not an

easily developable site. You've got the steepness in the back, and you've also got steepness in the ... and this dark area, basically, is a wetland with a seasonal brook that flows through there. So going to the main exhibit that I have here, you've got Church Road at the left. This is north oriented to the right, so we've kind of had to turn 90 degrees from what I was just looking at. So, you're coming in from the driveway. My first thought was well, why can't you just put it in this island? But then when we looked at it, there was 3 or 4 feet of change in elevation and there was some ledge poking out of it. That would definitely be a hardship to put it there. The other thing I want to stress is that we're going for the lowest impact, I think, you could get to be able to fit. Mr. Crandall has a tractor. This is the smallest shed that will fit the tractor that he has. We are trying to minimize the impact as part of the design—not going for a large structure beyond. So, this is the proposed garage in brown, here. This is the boulder wall that we were looking at, and there's multiple boulders that this is what we're going to do. The detail is that we're going to have like a bunker of laid up boulder retaining walls, a u shape. That's going to be filled with crushed stone to create a level surface. Then it's simply going to be a prefab shed that goes on blocks. So, we're not talking intensive foundation work or something like that. I think a key part of this whole design is keeping it as simple and as low impact as possible. We extended the bunker out a little bit. You can see my cursor, right, when I'm moving it? Okay. This is the drip edge from the shed that will have stone to receive it. I did a computation. The stone that's beneath there could handle I think more than a hundred-year storm in terms of volume. Not that it will stay there, because it will decipitate out, but it's got a large... the bunker around the edges, which is not pervious, but it would certainly slow down any flow. So, it would be a slow release. We've taken care of the environmental from added impervious. The other thing is I mentioned that we ruled out the island in front because of ledge and change in grade. We looked at where else could you put it and looked at two other possibilities. Let me zoom up if I can (zooms in to diagram). If we wanted to get out of the 50-foot, we'd have to run it up and just in doing that, extending the driveway, would be 443 square feet of added impervious. So, you'd be jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire in a sense to try and get something that meets the setback but would require more driveway extension to get to it. That's why we said I think you have a good argument not to do it there. Also, you're talking some significant, because you're getting into the side of a hill, you've got to cut the ledge instead of... the other way, we're doing a bunker, which isn't too bad. This could be a bunker, but it would be high slopes or the back of it, the ground would be high. The other option, and I think Stafford even brought it up, is why don't you just put it off the end? Which was a sensible suggestion except for a couple of things. That would block their access to their backyard. They've got a well and things going on that you'd want to be able to get access through there. That wouldn't be ... I wouldn't claim that to be a, necessarily a paved access. But by the time you just grade to make it happen, you've spilled fill down right to the wetland and you're taking out trees, so we really think that that, even though on the face of it, looked like a good suggestion, the end result would be still more environmentally impacting than going back to what is, I think, the simplest. To bring it right of the existing edge. Keeping this access open to the back. There's already a culvert there. One of the things I would like to commend the Crandalls for doing is their roof fodder comes and goes into an infiltration trench, nicely done with river stone, so it looks good. But, the water, it seems to be working well to absorb that water. It has a level lip at the end if it were an extreme event, that's not going to create a point source to erode toward the brook. We also said it would be nice to protect that. This location was chosen. It does need quite a bit of relief. I will note, also, you can see this line here which is the 50-foot setback line, the long-dashed lines. So far they've been able to be, with improvements, now the house is 1976, so that was put there before any setbacks were in place. I think they kind of fall under that regulation that says consideration, you know, being considerate for the hardship that you're creating when you do the 50-foot setback. It's not like they could plan ahead, because there was no indication that the 50-foot setback was coming. They have done additions, and they've made sure they could adhere to those. This is where we're just looking for the exception. That's basically low impact, keeping

a bunker-type approach that's going to absorb all the rainwater so there won't be... there will be temporary erosion controls during, you know, the building of it. But, no deep foundation, so it's low impact. I think in the least, even though it looks all, boy, you look like you need to go to within 13.6 feet of the existing wetland, but any other location, you'd end up with more square footage of impact if you were to count disturbances and other land disturbing activities. I understand that's not part of the regulation. You can, and that's the irony of it all too, is that you can move his paved driveway right up against the wetland and then try and do something, but it doesn't make sense. When it comes to environmentally friendly, most of the issue is drainage, but the rules only speak to structures. I think, that's some indication that if it was slightly smaller, it can sneak in under the wire. I haven't been able to confirm that, so I'm not going there. The size of it, 12' by 16', is a very modest shed. It's the smallest one that would facilitate his parking his tractor. You might say why does he need a tractor? Not that it matters, but he's got some very nice landscaping, he and his wife, and time and time again the contracted plows have kind of torn things up as they go through. It's tough. It is a bit tight. There's really nice--there's these terraced rock walls. There are plantings. I can feel his grief because I've had the same issue with someone who doesn't know your land well plowing. If you don't have a good solid frost, you'll end up with a lot of destruction. So, the tractor is for the purpose, mostly, of just being able to surgically plow the snow and do it in a way that isn't destroying the landscaping around the edges of the driveway. So, we're here to also work with you for any recommendations. I would hope that we can get something positive to go back to the ZBA with. It's one of the simpler projects that I've done. I almost feel guilty that he's paid me so much money to do this. We really wanted to make the case well, that this is the least impacting.

Chair Carter said well it is a very nice presentation for a 12' by 16' shed. (laughter from the board). A binder with plastic and pictures and everything like that for a 12' by 16' shed--I would hope that they would maybe form the shed, make it look like the house more than just a preformed shed to drop there. Mr. Crandall said it's going to have cedar shake shingles to match the house and an architectural green shingled roof. The trim will be painted to match the house trim. Chair Carter said I'm sure you'll be dealing with Reeds Ferry or something like that. Mr. Crandall said yes. Chair Carter added they do a great job when it comes to those things. I'll open it up to any questions from the Commission. Ms. Grogan said I just want to say that it's well thought out and I like what you've done. I like your plan. Mr. Crandall said thank you. Ms. Donovan said, and I agree with that. It's beautifully put together and presented. It makes the case. Ms. Jones said I didn't have any particular questions. I think it was good that you thought out multiple alternatives. It allows you to really think through placement, but it does seem like the first option makes the most sense. The base, the way that you're doing it and then having the sides where it's going to be somewhat pervious to allow for the rain and everything and infiltration, to me it makes sense. For me it was easy to read through everything and really see what your considerations were. It makes sense to me why that first option probably is the best option. Chair Carter said going through this I know the drainage is the key and I know that Mr. Sanford is very key to that because he worked with me on mine. The only thing I would say is if you're putting a tractor of that size, I would look at possibly painting the floor or doing something because a tractor that has pressure fittings for the snowblower, there's transmission fluid, there's fuel, there's oil. There could be the lines blowing on that or something. That is, being that close the wetland area—15 feet for a shed that size is not that big deal—but I would look at working on something that would be... just in case you do spill gasoline. A concrete floor is one thing, but to have a wood floor, that could cause some issues. So, even just painting the floor or doing some coating on the floor so that if something spills, it doesn't soak and go through the wood and down into the ground beneath it. Mr. Crandall said the manager at Reeds Ferry recommended that we do that as soon as the shed goes in—paint the floor area—get some special

paint. I don't recall exactly what the name is, but we're planning to do that. Mr. Carter added and have some speedy dry or something available... kitty litter, whatever you need, just in case ... I've been around situations where tractors, the lines, all that fluid that's under high pressure and next thing you know, you're having some issues. It's not during the wintertime it happens. It happens during the summertime. So, paint—other than that, great presentation. I will open it up for a motion from the Commission.

MOTION: Ms. Jones motions to recommend approval of the 50-foot wetlands setback variance request at 37 Church Road, Lot 1456. Motion seconded by Ms. Grogan. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Motion carries.

Chair Carter said thank you. Mr. Sanford said I noted on the impervious floor, I'll actually add that to the plan. Chair Carter said please. It's just for your safety more than anything else. Most people put garages within there, and that's a concrete floor which will protect them from any leakage. A wood floor doesn't do that. Thank you for your presentation.

Old Business:

Chubbuck Road: Chair Carter said I will give you an update on the Chubbuck Road property. I am continuing to work with that. Obviously working with the Planning Board. It will be my project over the next 6 months to sit down with the Planning Department and go over the many facets of the Chubbuck Road area. It's just recently that the Planning Department has their full staff.

Cub Cleanup Day: Chair Carter said also an update on the upcoming Cub Cleanup Day. Lots of people have been getting ahold of me. If you have been watching BCTV, the PSA is out there. We did that a couple weeks ago so, that's out there. The radio spot for 1051 has been done. I do have yard signs for everyone to take back and put in their yards. I have one in my yard. We can put those out. If anybody's watching that would like to have a yard sign, I only have about a dozen of them. I didn't go crazy with them. But it's going to be on 10/16 from 9 to 3. We've got a lot of the same organizations involved that were here doing it in April—school kids, local organizations. It's going to be a great day. Again, make sure you're out there with high-reflective clothes, walking towards the traffic, making sure that you have long sleeves, gloves. I made mention in the PSA, poison ivy is not an issue in April. It's been a very big issue this year on the roadside, so please be careful. It's going to be a great time, rain or shine. The five locations are the Safety Complex, the Library, Town Hall, the Transfer Station, and the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill. That would be the black and yellow bins. You'll see right on the lid it says Cub. The bags will be in those containers, yes. We got three boxes of blue bags from DPW today. I thank them for dropping them off at my house. Thursday, I plan on dropping these containers off to each of the locations. I did say I'd start with October first because people say if you get them out early, people will get out there and maybe do it earlier that day. It went off very well. DPW will be out that day picking up those blue bags. So, great thing. Please help keep Bedford clean. That's the First Annual Fall Cub Cleanup Day.

Cub Sponsor a Road Program:

Chair Carter said the other thing that's going to be coming... the first set of signs for Wallace Road. We're doing a Sponsor a Road program—the Cub program. I was able to have the approval of the Town Council to put these two signs up. I'll be working with DPW to get them done. On Wallace Road at the Goffstown line coming in from Goffstown and coming in from Merrimack. I'll be working on those. I might not get those out before the snow, but definitely for the first part of Spring. A lot of things going

on with the Cub program and, of course, the Commission is one of the co-sponsors of that. That is—it was funny. I was talking with the members earlier today before this meeting started. Bill Duschatko, Town Councillor, sent me an email showing the Conservation Commission from 1971. Their main objective that year in 1971 was to develop a Town Cleanup Day. Back in 1971, it only took fifty years to do. Back then 5,800 people in town. 101 used to be ... is where Old Amherst Road was. That was 101 before they built that. This town was totally different back in 1971 compared to 2021. It was nice to see that a movement like this was trying to get started back in 1971. I hope this movement continues on for many, many years. We'll move on. Kathleen, do you have any updates on the High School Ecological Program?

Bedford High School Ecological Program:

Ms. Ports said yes. As we previously discussed, the Game Camera project is expected to move forward in the Spring. In the meantime, I've just been communicating with the High School liaison and tomorrow I'll be hosting a class out at Legacy Park, where I'll be monitoring the Town-held no disturbance easement. Then the teacher Dan King and I have also just been talking about other ways the school can learn or participate in Conservation Commission events throughout the year. Chair Carter said does anybody have any questions for Kathleen on this? (no questions)

Pulpit Rock Survey:

Chair Carter said so what is the status on Pulpit Rock Survey? Ms. Ports said we have the final survey finally. We received it last Friday. I brought the maps if anybody wants to look and see what it looks like. It clarifies where we've set new boundaries. Where the boundaries were located—the corner markers. This is the last step now to close out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant that we received for the trail improvements. We'll be able to close out that whole grant project. We are working on hiring a Forester to do the blazing, which is kind of important. We have a lot of abutters out there—residential abutters—so we want to just be really clear on where that property line is now that we have markers to help establish that. So, you'll be hearing about that in the coming months as well. Chair Carter said the best time to place is during the wintertime anyway. Ms. Ports agrees yes. We'll probably do it when the leaves fall. Chair Carter asks are there any questions for Kathleen on this? Ms. Jones said well, and I can wait until we get to the land survey. Because I had a question about Pulpit Rock, but I can save that for then. But it is in regard to blazes. Ms. Ports said okay.

Goedecke Eagle Scout Project:

Chair Carter asked so Kathleen, what's our status on the Eagle Scout kayak dock? Ms. Ports answered we've been communicating, but we haven't really gotten too far. Jonathan told me that he's drafted a proposal and I asked if I could see it and review it and then we'll conduct a site visit together. Then we'll come back and potentially do a presentation and a recommendation at the same time. Probably November because next month is our workshop. Chair Carter asked does anybody have any questions? (no questions)

BioBlitz Update:

Chair Carter asked how about an update on the BioBlitz? Ms. Ports said so we had two events for the BioBlitz the week of September 13th. The first one was on Tuesday, and I have to give kudos to Julie Donovan for recruiting most of our attendees from the Bedford Women's Group. We also had a young adult attend, who was really into bugs and really knowledgeable about bugs. That was really fun. It was a great group. We went out to the Heritage Trail. A lot of the women didn't even know the trail was there. That was great exposure for the trail system. The Library attended. Then we had another event on Saturday at the Library. We explored the Bedford Village Commons. NH Public Radio was in attendance

at that event. So, a lot of the kids were interviewed on public radio. The Library was interviewed. I was interviewed. So, hopefully, that story will run Wednesday or Thursday. Overall, it was a great event. It was so much fun—especially being with the kids. They just wanted to look at everything and learn everything. The App was really easy to use—extremely gratifying because you could get answers. It even identified a feather—which bird it came from. That was very cool. It was a great partnership with the Library, so they're excited about partnering on some more events together. That's the plan We're talking about a couple times a year doing some more events on town lands. Chair Carter asked does anyone have any questions for Kathleen on this? Ms. Ports added oh, I've got to thank Stephanie, too, because she showed up on Saturday. Ms. Donovan said I just want to thank you for that App because it's wonderful. My husband is away on a business trip. He keeps saying the plants he's seeing, he's got the App on his phone, he's identifying plants and things. Ms. Ports said oh, that's exciting. Ms. Donovan added, and my daughter has also downloaded it. It's fantastic. It's not so good if you're taking a bird in the distance (laughter) anything you can take close to it is great. Chair Carter asked what is that App? Maybe the people watching want it. Ms. Ports said it's called iNaturalist. All you have to do is take a photo and upload it into the App and it will even identify it for you. Although, I have to say today I was out at Legacy Park, and I photographed this weird conglomeration of mushrooms and it thought it was a frog! (laughter) oops! Chair Carter kidded it's a mushroom frog. Ms. Jones added I was just going to say that App is kind of fun too because I've actually seen some of your IDs on there when you use the map. But then other users are confirming my identification. It's nice to have that education and that information reinforced. Ms. Ports said right. You don't have to know what you're looking at. Somebody else can help you verify it. The iNaturalist App is global and that data is universally available. Any scientist, researcher can use those records to conduct research. That's kind of a neat thing, too. Chair Carter said excellent. Looks like the next item is the RFP for survey work on conservation lands.

Pulpit Mowing:

Ms. Ports said if you remember, last month we had a request to mow an easement and the landowner had suggested that they would be willing to help. There's a lot of brush out there. So, I was trying to organize a workday to tie in with the Cub day to clear brush, but the Pulpit Rock Subcommittee did a recon and we realized that we have some invasive plant issues out there. So, we really need to put a little bit more thought and strategy into how we're going to go about doing this. So, we are doing that. Hopefully we'll also work with that Forester to come up with some recommendations about how best to kind of handle all of that. It's still in progress.

Other Business**Previously Reviewed Variances:**

Chair Carter asked Kathleen, do we have any updates on previously reviewed permits or variances by the ZBA? Ms. Ports said we do. We received a copy of the Demers wetland fill application. You previously reviewed that permit application in April. It's a driveway crossing for a subdivision near Joppa Hill Road. That was authorized. The Pulpit Brook Bridge wetland fill project that's on Route 101 and there's a left-hand turn into Twin Brook Lane there. We reviewed that at the July 27th Conservation Commission meeting and that permit also has been issued. That's it for previously reviewed permits for variances. Chair Carter asked does anybody have any questions for Kathleen on this? (no questions)

RFP for Survey Work on Conservation Lands:

Chair Carter asked can you review the proposal for us, Kathleen? Ms. Ports said yes, I can. Let me pull out my ... I'm just looking for my staff report. So, as you guys probably understand, we have several properties in town where the Piscataquog Land Conservancy holds the conservation easement. As the

conservation easement holder, it's their requirement to monitor those easements. One of the things that they're looking for is to make sure that the property boundaries are marked and clear so that they can make sure there's no encroachments—especially where we have residential landowners abutting those properties. They've identified several missing markers, probably over the last couple of years. So, we asked for proposals to replace those markers where they're missing. We also asked for some blazing on the properties where there's the greatest risk of encroachment. We received two bids for the work, and it's the staff's recommendation that we accept the lowest bid, which is partly what we're required to do. It's \$12,200, and it would involve 5 properties. We also received bids for blazing, but we've identified that we need to do the blazing at Pulpit Rock as well. So, we thought it might make sense to wait and get an RFP that would address all of the blazing together at once. That's why we kind of split it out here and recommend that we move forward with the monuments but hold off on the blazing, so that we can request additional RFPs for that. Ms. Jones said so that addresses my question. Because down at the bottom, with the recommendation, you mentioned Pulpit Rock, Van Loan and Stebbins Pond, but I didn't see Pulpit Rock on the bid results, so that makes sense why you're saying that now. So that was my question was why wasn't Pulpit Rock included for the blazing part. But now I understand. Okay. Thank you. Ms. Ports said yes, you're welcome. I should have made that clearer. Ms. Jones added I figured there had to be a reason why. Ms. Ports said it's always clear in my head. (laughter) Chair Carter asked any further questions for Kathleen? If not, I will ask for a motion. Ms. Ports added so the motion would be to authorize the expenditure of the \$12,200 to complete the monument replacement. The \$12,200 from the Conservation Fund to replace the missing monuments. Chair Carter asked how many monuments are we talking? Ms. Ports said let's see, there's probably at least twenty-five? There are very few corner stones and then the rest would be iron pipes. Chair Carter said okay.

MOTION: Ms. Jones motions to accept Ms. Port's motion to authorize the expenditure of the \$12,200 to complete the monument replacement. Motion seconded by Ms. Grogan. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Motion carries.

Monitoring of Town-held Easements and Town-Owned Parcels:

Chair Carter asked can you provide us, Kathleen, an update on monitoring of town-held easements and town-owned parcels with restrictions? Ms. Ports said this is sort-of just an FYI. We also, the town also holds conservation easements on several private lots, and then we also have lands that are restricted through deed restrictions or other devices. So, those properties also need to be monitored for things like encroachments, infrastructure, where we have bridges, you know, invasive plants, all those kinds of issues. So, that was last done in 2017, but now I am completing that monitoring. So, I'm doing a few properties every couple weeks. If you wanted to come out and see a property that you haven't been on, let me know and I can let you know when I'll be out there. Again, these are the properties that are not held by Piscataquog Land Conservancy. These are anything else that the town owns as conservation area. I can give you a list if you're not entirely familiar with all those. Ms. Jones said I would like one. Chair Carter said maybe for our workshop—to have that work for our workshop. Ms. Ports added that was something I was thinking we should add to the binder—differentiate the kinds of lands that we own and what our relationship is on all those properties. Ms. Grogan said if you could let me know when you're going, I'd love to go. Ms. Ports said yah, that'd be fine. Ms. Grogan said okay. Chair Carter said now this is when you're supposed to give me an update on trail mowing on Pulpit Road, but we've already discussed that, right? Ms. Ports said oh, yes! (laughter) Was that my fault? Chair Carter said alright, I'm just making sure I'm following the script that you gave me. Ms. Ports said it's the Pulpit Rock Survey and the easement mowing—I'm mixing the two up, so I apologize. Chair Carter said okay, no problem. I just don't want to be accused of not following the script that you've put together for me. Ms. Ports said I'm sorry. (laughter) Chair Carter said alright, let's move on.

Survey Results for October Workshop:

Chair Carter asked Kathleen, can you update us on the upcoming October Workshop? Ms. Ports said yes. So, we've been talking about what we want to work on in October. The thought was to come up with a list of some short-term 6- to 12-month projects that we would embark on and so I created a survey of about 8 different projects that all of you had suggested. You guys all completed your surveys so thank you for that. The results were that the Trail Stewardship Program and the effort to create a list of projects for any sort-of volunteer organizations or Scouts or other entities—those two were the highest-ranking priorities. Two other programs ranked pretty high and were basically tied. That was establishing the Invasive Plant Management Program and updating the Con Com website. So, I believe what the staff would suggest we do is spend that October Workshop sort-of diving into those first two priorities. Then potentially talking about what else, if anything else, we can kind-of add or do over the next 6 months. That's sort-of what we're recommending is that we kind-of go with the first 2, see how it goes. Chair Carter said I would also want to ask the members to work on a project. I mean, obviously Cub is my project. That's what I started. Are there little things that everybody would like to do? Is there a little project that, you know, for the upcoming year, that low-hanging fruit that, or do something that would allow the Conservation Commission to have a better footing inside the community here so that we're showing them that, hey, we're doing these things. We're working—it's a lot of it behind the scenes—working with the Planning Department to get this done. But I've always felt an active Commission is—they tend to draw more people in. As we are now down a full-time member and two part-time members—two alternates. So, it's things like that that we can get out and published and out on BCTV and Facebook, showing these are the things that we're doing. Then, someone walks in and says wow, I like what you guys are doing and wants to be involved once a month and doing all the things that we do as part of our mission statement and our motto. Just a little thing, you know, not taking away from those two big things that we want to work on as a Commission. But there's just some little ... one little thing... I know you like walking trails and you're into the science, and a lot of that can help the Commission. Because now we can learn from each other when it comes to conservation in the Town of Bedford. Ms. Ports added I think there's also room for some of the other ideas, you know, if a smaller subgroup wanted to kind-of bring those forward. Or we might even be able to, for example, the 55-and-over Hiking Club could become part of the Trail Stewardship Program. So, we could talk about that. Ms. Grogan agreed yes, get people on our trails and show them what we do. Ms. Donovan agrees and says I'd like to do that through the Bedford Women's Club as well. Ms. Grogan said we can do that together, sure. Chair Carter said a lot of you remember when Beth Evarts, when she was on the Commission, she's still on the Commission, I'm sorry, she's an alternate. When she was Chairman, that was what she did. You didn't see anything about the trails unless she was doing BCTV, so it's just little things like that. We're a small Commission, but we can really show everyone what's going on when it comes to the Town of Bedford when it comes to conservation. Just a little thing that I find as being—that keeps me focused—when it comes to twice a year putting on a Cub program. There's a lot of work that goes on not just those two days. Just to make sure that the word gets out so that we have everybody out there. And we have a clean community. That's the key right there. Ms. Jones said I had a question. In preparation for the October Workshop, do you want us—for example the Trail Stewardship Program—I know I had mentioned something about Amherst. Would you want us to reach out to anybody that we feel would be a resource or maybe not quite there yet? Maybe at a later date? Ms. Ports answered we could certainly have a presentation from another Conservation Commission that has a successful program. I did talk to Amherst. I did interview them. One idea that we had was—what I might do in preparation for the meeting—is look at some of the surrounding communities and the programs that they're running. Then talk about some of the elements of those programs and how they're structured

and implemented. So that we could talk about which one fits what we would like to do. Ms. Jones said okay. That's awesome, because that was the thing in my head was well, we haven't even necessarily had a conversation, but I'm glad that you have because that's good to know. I don't know as much. I just know that they have a working program, and I was like, alright, maybe that will be a model. That's awesome. Ms. Ports added and it's your meeting or workshop so if you want to invite, that's fine. We can do that. We weren't sure if it would take too much of the time that we have available. So, the alternative was to do some of that research beforehand. Ms. Ports said no, I think that sounds great. Ms. Ports said okay. Chair Carter asked this is being held at Town Hall? Ms. Ports said that's a question for all of you. Ms. Grogan said last time it was in the basement of the Library. Ms. Ports said in past years, we've had it as more of a social event where we had some food and we had it at the Library. With COVID, we can do whatever you guys are comfortable doing. We could do it here. We could still have some food, or we can do it in the library. I'd be curious... Chair Carter said I remember doing it in the meeting room down in the Town Hall, too, when I first came on. Ms. Ports said if you want a bigger space, we could do it in a bigger space, and then have a social setting. But we'd be able to spread out a little bit more. If you guys want to sort-of kind of weigh in and send me an email or something about what you think would be exciting for you or agreeable to you? Chair Carter said why don't you just send an email out to everyone just—for those that are not here—or something like that. Ms. Ports said yes. I'll email you and ... Ms. Grogan asked in a casual setting... are we allowed to do that in our homes? Ms. Ports said I don't believe so. Ms. Grogan said okay. Ms. Ports said I don't believe so because it's still a public meeting. Chair Carter said I don't think it... we're not under orders of the Governor so we're not able to do Zoom anymore. Ms. Grogan said no, no, I'm talking about if someone has a finished basement or ... Ms. Ports said even though it's a workshop, it's still a public meeting. Chair Carter said so, yes, we have three different places that we can hold it. Ms. Grogan said yes, it worked out well in the basement of the Library. We had pizza and it was like a round table and it was... Ms. Ports said that would be nice. Chair Carter said that sounds like a ... yes. Ms. Ports said okay.

Chair Maggie Wachs Stepping Down:

Chair Carter said we have one additional item to discuss under old business. Unfortunately, our Chair, Maggie Wachs had to step down from the Commission. Unfortunately, with work and family, it got to be the point that she had to step away. We are so grateful to have Maggie, her time here and we hope that if things get better, that she will return to us. She was a great asset, very much with enthusiasm and she stepped up to become Chairman when we needed someone. I thank her for that. Ms. Grogan said thank you, Maggie, if you're watching. Chair Carter said hopefully she's watching. (laughter from commission) We kept her active at least for the first 25 minutes of the meeting. Unfortunately, we need a new Chair. So, I'm going to ask if, do we have any volunteers? Seeing the deer in the headlight, I'd like to make a motion that we nominate Pat Grogan. She has graciously said that she would. I'm sure we will have a second for that.

MOTION: Chair Carter motions Pat Grogan be elected Chairman of the Commission. Ms. Donovan duly seconds the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Motion carries.

Chair Carter said Pat will take the reins starting in our October Workshop. I do thank you very much for stepping up. Ms. Grogan said that you for the nomination. I'll try to do my best. Just bear with me because I've never chaired a meeting. Chair Carter said you know I'm only reading the script that was given to me. Ms. Grogan asked do I get one? Chair Carter said well, yes you will! As a matter of fact, if you want it tonight, there it is right there. (hands her the script) I've been reading it off the computer. Lastly, announcements there?

Announcements:

Ms. Ports said yes. The registration is now open for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC). They have two workshop sessions. You have to select the workshop that you want to attend. You can either register yourselves individually and pay for the conference through a credit card and then you can just print the registration form and I have a reimbursement request you can fill out. We will reimburse you. Alternatively, you can register, indicate that you're going to pay by check. Then send me your confirmation, and I will gather all of those and the town will write one check for all the registrations. I will send out an email with the plans for the October Workshop. I need you to register by October 15 so that we can have a check cut in time. They want to be paid beforehand. Chair Carter added I would suggest if those that haven't been to any of these, I've been to many of them over the years through my time in other towns. It's a great resource—a great asset. Unfortunately, it's still virtual right now. Ms. Ports said yes, it is. Chair Carter said but to go up to Concord once a year and sit with numerous other Conservation Commissions, and just to see where they are versus... what we do here is what we do here, but what other people do in the northern part of the state, the east and the west... so it's a great thing to be part of. Unfortunately, I'm going to be on a plane coming back from Las Vegas that day--probably licking my wounds for all the money that I've left on the floors out there in Vegas. Ms. Grogan said so we just go to NHACC and register? Ms. Ports said yes. I sent you, previously, an email to log in as a member. Ms. Grogan said yes.

PLC Activities on Bedford Conservation Areas:

Chair Carter said and we have some PLC events? Ms. Ports said oh yes, we do. One of their volunteers, Dave Butler, he actually attended a Conservation Commission meeting a few months ago, is doing some conservation walks at Pulpit Rock on October 16 in the afternoon. Then out at the Tarr property. Dave will do a little bit of naturalist interpretation, but he's also really good at reading forests and their history. For example, we were out at Pulpit together and he just pointed out some old, barbed wire and its location on the fence can tell which side of the property was grazed and which side was access. So, he has a lot of really neat knowledge like that—really nice guy. If you have a chance to go, those are both really nice areas to hike as well. Ms. Donovan said can I just ask... I looked online and the 13th and the 14th look like the same hike. Ms. Ports said they are. Ms. Donovan said so, you just go to one of them. I was thinking I would advertise that with Bedford Women's Club because I'm sure there will be a few people that really will enjoy that. I know I will. I think one of the days works for Bedford Women's Club and the other one doesn't. I'll send out the word. Ms. Grogan said great. Ms. Ports said that would be great—absolutely.

Adjourn

Chair Carter said well if there is nothing else that the Commission has for Kathleen or for TV, I will ask for a motion to adjourn this meeting at 7:54.

MOTION: Ms. Jones makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member seconded the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Chair Carter said good evening, Bedford.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Sue Forcier