

**Town of Chester  
Conservation Commission – Business Meeting  
January 8, 2024  
6:00 p.m.  
Approved Minutes**

*Broadcast on Channel 6 and streamed on Government (cablecast.tv) – click “Watch Now”*

**Members present:**

Chairman Victor Chouinard  
Kristina Snyder  
Deb Munson  
Ted Broadwater

**Members absent:**

Kathleen Neff Ragsdale  
Rick Sibley  
Nick Tranquillo  
Mikael Cejtin, Alternate  
Eric McGowan, Alternate  
Selectwoman Dana Theokas, Liaison

**Guests present:**

Chester PACT

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Chouinard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. New Business/Updates**

**A. Moosewood: Jeff Littleton & Steven Lamonde**

Jeff Littleton and Steven Lamonde presented an update on the Spring Hill Farm project. They have sent out the draft findings and are working on the recommendations. The Commission discussed recommendations they would like regarding land use at Spring Hill Farm. Chairman Chouinard asked them to review constructing a sports field off Shepard Hill Road.

**B. Moosewood Contract Work Updates**

Discussions continued with Jeff Littleton and Steven Lamonde, starting with the list of properties that Moosewood would like to visit for their NRI work. Chairman Chouinard stated that he had reviewed the list and the letter that would be sent out to the land owners, and they would be sent out within two weeks.

Moosewood requested that the Commission hold a previously agreed-upon Zoom meeting before moving forward with the North Woods Ecological survey.

**C. RCCD Payment Approval and Invasives at Wason**

Chairman Chouinard reported an invoice was received from the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) for \$4,665 for the invasive plant treatment at Wason Pond.

*Ms. Snyder moved to approve payment of the invoice from RCCD for invasive plant treatment at Wason Pond for \$4,665. Ms. Munson seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

**D. ECM Retainer Payment Approval**

Chairman Chouinard reported the retainer fee of \$4,830 is due to Eric C. Mitchell & Associates for survey work done for the west side of the North Woods.

*Ms. Munson moved to approve payment of the retainer fee to Eric C. Mitchell & Associates to survey the west side of the North Woods. Mr. Broadwater seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

**E. Moosewood Ecological Payment Approval**

Chairman Chouinard reported an invoice was received from Moosewood Ecological LLC for \$2,910 for the Spring Hill Farm ecological study. He noted the final payment will be due when they submit the final report.

*Mr. Broadwater moved to approve payment of \$2,910 to Moosewood Ecological for the Spring Hill Farm ecological study. Ms. Munson seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

**F. SNHPC**

Chairman Chouinard reported that payment of \$170 is due for the Conservation Commission's copy of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) land use publication.

*Ms. Munson moved to approve payment of \$170 to the SNHPC for their land use publication. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

**G. ESRLAC Payment Approval and Discussion**

Chairman Chouinard reported he received an invoice for \$200 from the Exeter Swampscott River Local Advisory Commission (ERSLAC) for annual membership dues.

*Mr. Broadwater moved to approve payment of the annual membership dues of \$200 to ERSALAC. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

The Commission discussed if a member of the Commission should attend the ERSALAC meetings and who has attended in the past. Mr. Broadwater offered to serve as the contact from the Chester Conservation Commission.

#### **H. Annual Donation Gift Acceptance**

Mr. Broadwater read an email from a Chester resident that has offered to make the Conservation Commission an annual gift recipient of a trust.

*Ms. Munson moved to approve acceptance of this gift. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **I. Business Cards / Banner**

The Commission discussed ordering a banner and business cards. They agreed to continue the discussion at the February meeting, once more information is obtained.

#### **J. Annual Report Discussion**

The Commission discussed the actions of the past year to include in the Annual Report and members volunteered to cover the following topics:

**Ms. Munson:** priority resource inventory and pollinator patch. **Ms. Snyder:** presentation event, outreach, and Spring Hill Farm ecological survey. **Chairman Chouinard:** survey work. **Mr. Broadwater:** Town Forest.

#### **K. Connect to Protect**

Ms. Munson shared information about Connect to Protect, the New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Conservation Protection Plan. She volunteered to follow up and report her findings to the Commission. Ms. Snyder offered to participate, if a second person is needed.

### **III. Regular Business**

#### **A. Minutes Approval – December 12, 2023**

*Ms. Snyder moved to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023, meeting as written. Ms. Munson seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor except Mr. Broadwater, who abstained. The motion passed 3-0-1.*

#### **B. Treasurer's Report**

The Commission agreed to table this report until the next meeting.

### **C. Spring Hill Farm**

There was no Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (SHFAC) meeting in December. Ms. Snyder reported the Winter Fest will be held February 24<sup>th</sup>. The next SHFAC meeting will be on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., with the Winter Fest working group meeting at 6:00 p.m. She invited anyone interested to attend. Volunteers are needed.

### **D. Wason Pond Conservation Area**

There was no Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Commission meeting held in December. Chairman Chouinard reported the bridge survived the recent rains. He noted sediment is piling up that is reducing the flow, which causes the water to flow over the bridge.

He noted the Commission has been asked to take down a few dangerous trees. RCCD suggested checking with the NHB, who suggested checking with New Hampshire Fish & Game. As they are short-staffed, the request is currently with Fish & Game.

### **E. Easements, Monitoring, and Stewardship**

Chairman Chouinard reported he received an estimate to establish a baseline from RCCD for Jenkins Pond. There were questions regarding the proposal, so he is waiting on a response from RCCD. He noted the Jenkins Pond homeowners association is good about contacting the Commission regarding activity in the easement area. Mr. Broadwater noted his concern about the Commission doing the monitoring, due the complicated nature of the property.

### **F. Strategic Land Planning**

Chairman Chouinard will have information on real estate activity at the next meeting.

## **IV. Plan Reviews**

None

## **V. Miscellaneous Business**

Mr. Broadwater reported the Solar Working Group released RFPs to 16 entities and received three responses. The group will submit their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for their January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The intent is to present a Warrant Article at the Town Meeting in May. The group did their due diligence, including vetting whether solar power is a good idea. He said they believe it is. He discussed some of the concerns they have heard about solar.

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156 The Commission thanked Mr. Broadwater for the work he did on this project.  
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158 **VI. Adjourn**  
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160 *Ms. Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Munson seconded the motion. A vote was*  
161 *taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*  
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163 The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.  
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165 Respectfully submitted,  
166 Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary