

**Town of Chester
Conservation Commission
March 10, 2020
7:00 PM
Approved Minutes**

Present:

Chairman Victor Chouinard
Deb Munson
Kristina Snyder
Ted Broadwater
Aaron Hume, Alternate
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale
Rick Sibley, Alternate
Selectman Chuck Myette, Liaison (@7:46 PM)

Absent:

Baron Richardson

Guests:

Steve Demers

Call to Order:

Chairman Chouinard called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and noted Alternate Aaron Hume would be active. Alternate Rick Sibley was active until 7:45 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion: Revisit request to setup a "bait site" on a town-owned parcel

Ms. Snyder indicated she went to a NH Fish & Game meeting recently and asked the chief wildlife biologist about bait sites who deferred her to another biologist for more information. Ms. Snyder noted while there is no question about legality there are some what if scenarios to be considered. First, a couple of other people could be on a bait site and others may want bait sites also.

Mr. Demers responded that he has seen many illegal bait sites over the years and he is trying to do the right thing by coming here. Chair Chouinard thanked Mr. Demers for coming in and noted he greatly appreciated that.

Mr. Broadwater indicated he did research and looked at a couple of other states which had concerns with Chronic Wasting Disease and baiting would support the spread by having a central spot while agencies may want to quarantine populations from each other. Mr. Broadwater offered to forward his findings to Mr. Demers and noted he did not find anything which supported that baiting is a good idea. Mr. Demers responded that one of the positives is

41 having a clean kill, rather than the animal suffering. The bait is made up of corn, peanut butter
42 and molasses, sometimes fruit and pumpkins.

43 Mr. Broadwater noted it is Conservation's focus as stewards of Town property to make the best
44 decisions for the wildlife and the ecology. Mr. Demers asked how many Chronic Wasting
45 Disease cases there were in New Hampshire and Mr. Broadwater noted it is evident throughout
46 New England. Fish & Game did a presentation on Chronic Wasting Disease to the Commission
47 and while it is not currently in New Hampshire, it is a question not if, but a matter of when.
48 Other wildlife could be coming to the bait.

49 Mrs. Neff Ragsdale thanked Mr. Demers for doing this the right way and told him she
50 appreciates that. Ultimately it will be up to the Board of Selectmen and Mr. Demers is on their
51 agenda for Thursday evening.

52 Chair Chouinard indicated he was not in favor of wavering from what he considers normal use
53 of town lands, and not to set a precedent. If we get 50 people setting up bait stands we have to
54 okay everybody. Chair Chouinard noted he appreciates what Mr. Demers brought up about
55 getting a clean shot.

56 Ms. Munson asked about cleaning up the bait site and Mr. Demers noted it would be out
57 between October 1st and December 1st with all removed by December 1.

58 ***Mr. Broadwater motioned the Commission not recommend bait sites be hosted on town-***
59 ***owned land. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the***
60 ***motion passed unanimously.***

61 Ms. Snyder asked Mr. Demers if he would coordinate something to address when he witnesses
62 illegal bait sites set up. Mr. Demers noted if he sees something illegal he will usually remove it.

63 Mr. Sibley asked if he hunted with bow or rifle and Mr. Demers indicated he used a shot gun.

64 **OLD BUSINESS**

65 3. Review Minutes – February 11, 2020

66 ***Mr. Munson motioned to accept the February 11, 2020 minutes. Mr. Hume seconded the***
67 ***motion. A vote was taken. Mrs. Neff Ragsdale abstained. Approved 6-0-1.***

68 4. Subcommittee reports

69 A. Strategic Land Protection Committee – SLPC

70 Non-Public Session under 91A:3(II)(d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real
71 or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose
72 interests are adverse to those of the general community.

73 ***Mrs. Neff Ragsdale motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91A:3(II)(d) at 7:24 PM.***
74 ***Mr. Broadwater seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Broadwater – aye, Munson***
75 ***– aye, Chouinard – aye, Hume – aye, Sibley – aye, Neff Ragsdale – aye, Snyder – aye. The***
76 ***motion passed 7-0-0.***

77 The meeting room was closed to the public at 7:24 PM.

78 ***Mr. Broadwater motioned to come out of non-public session at 7:43 PM and seal the minutes.***
79 ***Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed***
80 ***unanimously.***

81 The meeting room was reopened to the public at 7:43 PM.

82 B. Treasurer's Report

83
84 Mrs. Neff Ragsdale reported she had the expense sheets from finance but did not have the
85 bank statements yet. The Commission agreed they would table the Treasurer's report until next
86 month and would report a month behind. \$7.02 has been spent in expenses, \$6.85 for printing
87 and .17 cents for miscellaneous leaving the operating budget \$408.81 over.

88
89 C. Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (Ms. Snyder)

90
91 Ms. Snyder reported Bob Pepper will be doing the haying on Lane Road and indicated there are
92 serious rocks that should be removed. He is willing to rent equipment for \$1,200 and
93 recommends also that soil testing be done. The house is still an issue with ADA compliance. A
94 new member who lives on Lane Road is hosting a Fall Trail ride in September.

95
96 Selectman Myette indicated a couple was interested in a start up with organize plantings at the
97 high tunnel.

98
99 D. Agricultural Commission (Mrs. Neff Ragsdale)

100 Mrs. Neff Ragsdale noted the Herb Society was interested in doing something with Agriculture.

101 E. Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission (Ms. Snyder)

102 Ms. Snyder reported the Commission was discussing parking permits and security for the
103 summer months. Selectman Myette noted increase ranger time with the possibility of an intern
104 working with the Police Department, video cameras and parking stickers or kiosks. There will
105 be no spring soccer but there will be a field hockey clinic. April 18th will be the 50th Earth Day
106 Clean up. The Pounder will be at the end on May. Ms. Snyder will revisit the beaver situation.

107 F. Easements, Monitoring & Stewardship

108 Chair Chouinard indicated Lincoln Lane is scheduled for monitoring on March 22, 2020 at noon.

109 Chair Chouinard noted he received from RCCD the monitoring report on the Natural Area and
110 there were notations of encroachments by the abutting neighbor with fences, septic vent pipe
111 and leach field grading near to and over the property line.

112 Ms. Munson asked if the encroachment could be flagged. Selectman Myette noted the
113 easement is owned by RCCD and it would be up to them to decide to enforce it.

114 G. Trails (Mr. Hume)

115 Mr. Hume indicated he was continuously working to update the trail maps. Ms. Snyder
116 indicated she will have trail maps at the Small Business Fair.

117 **PLAN REVIEWS**

118 Selectman Myette noted Pipit Estates is on hold until the developer can obtain the surety and
119 file the plan with the Registry of Deeds.

120 **MISCELLANEOUS**

121 Pollinator Pathways Presentation Recap

122 Ms. Munson indicated the Pollinator Pathways presentation was held on March 7th, 2020 at
123 10:30 in the Selectmen's meeting room and had about 25 people in attendance. Hopefully
124 PACT recorded it but it will be repeated on the 25th in Raymond and at the Audubon this month.

125 Small Business Fair (Ms. Snyder)

126 Ms. Snyder indicated the Small Business Fair is Saturday, March 28th, 2020 from 10-3.
127 Selectman Myette may add the vernal pools display so that people understand the significance.

128 Saving Special Places – attendance

129 Ms. Munson indicated the Saving Special Places seminar is April 4th in Alton NH and will
130 forward a link to those interested. Those interested in attending should notify Chair Chouinard
131 by the end of the month. Since the Commission is over budget they will email the Town
132 Administrator to let her know how many will register.

133 North Pond Kiosk

134 Mr. Sibley will look at the Kiosk on North Pond Road which needs cleaning up. Mr. Sibley
135 recommended bleaching the mildew and applying stain. Mr. Sibley asked what color should be
136 used and Selectman Myette indicated it was pressure treated and not stained in the past so any
137 natural color stain could be used.

138 **Adjournment**

139 ***Ms. Snyder motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Neff Ragsdale seconded the motion,***
140 ***with all in favor, so moved.***

141 The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

142 Respectfully submitted,

143

144 Nancy Hoijer,
145 Recording Secretary