

**Town of Chester
Conservation Commission
July 14, 2020
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting
Approved Minutes**

Present (Remotely):

Chairman Victor Chouinard
Deb Munson
Kristina Snyder
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale
Rick Sibley
Aaron Hume, Alternate
Selectman Chuck Myette, Liaison

Absent:

Ted Broadwater

Guests:

CCTV

Call to Order:

Chairman Chouinard called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and indicated Alternate Aaron Hume was active.

Under the emergency provisions of RSA 91A, this meeting is being conducted electronically and will be recorded, via dial-in, 1 929 436 2866, internet at Zoom ID 726 6303 4827 as well as broadcast on Channel 20 and streamed on <http://vod.chesterctv.com>

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bulletin Board

Chair Chouinard indicated he received an email regarding Conservation's bulletin board outside the Town Clerk's office. The hallway has been renovated recently. The brochures were outdated and removed. Ms. Snyder indicated a lot of information is available on the Conservation website and Facebook page. Chair Chouinard noted the Commission should have a dedicated spot to post things somewhere.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Review Minutes – June 16, 2020

Mr. Hume motioned to accept the June 16, 2020 minutes, as amended. Selectman Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Chouinard – aye, Snyder – aye, Myette – abstain, Neff Ragsdale – aye, Sibley – aye, Munson – aye, and Hume – aye. A vote was taken, the motion passed 7-0-0.

4. Subcommittee reports

A. Strategic Land Protection Committee – SLPC

Chair Chouinard reported the Goldsmith property closed on June 25, 2020 and thanked everyone who helped put it together so quickly.

Chair Chouinard noted Manchester Water Works were issued permits to cut lots off Chester Turnpike. Chair Chouinard will contact them to see if they have any interest in selling those lots.

B. Treasurer's Report (Kathie)

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale reported she did not have the new budget from Finance yet.

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale reported balances in the following accounts:

Conservation	\$ 82,046.31 beginning balance
	+ 69.17 interest
	+ 14,250.00 current use deposit
	402,411.46 transfer Jumbo CD
	-77,383.21 Goldsmith property transfer to general fund
	\$416,730.63 ending balance

Forestry	\$41,180.79 beginning balance
	+ 6.97 interest
	\$ 41,187.76 ending balance

Lincoln Lane	\$ 3,087.91 beginning balance
	+ .52 interest
	\$ 3,088.43 ending balance

Emerson	\$10,213.66 beginning balance
	+ 1.73 interest
	\$ 10,250.42 ending balance

Ms. Munson motioned to accept the partial Treasurer's Report, as stated. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Chouinard – aye, Munson – aye, Snyder – aye, Sibley – aye, Neff Ragsdale – aye, Hume – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

85 C. Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (Kristina)

86
87 Ms. Snyder reported that Chair Kunelius resigned from the Committee. Today was her
88 last day. Joe Krasowski also resigned. The Recreation Commission also resigned
89 which leaves a vacancy for the Recreation Liaison which will be filled by Corinna
90 Reishus. Mrs. Oakley will continue with the Committee as a member at large.
91

92 Ms. Snyder reported the Ortins who rented the high tunnel have their farm stand opening
93 and a food truck operating in Sandown, Danville and Hampstead. They would like to
94 operate it from Chester but haven't gotten permits yet. Selectman Myette noted it is
95 something to discuss with RCCD when it gets to that point. Selectman Myette noted
96 growing, processing and selling products is allowed, and that Miss Church put in the
97 easement language that specifically allows trail rides. Chair Chouinard asked
98 Selectman Myette if any of the property was not in the easement and Selectman Myette
99 did not believe so.
100

101 Ms. Snyder noted issues with buildings and electric to the workshop which needs to be
102 replaced which will be brought up at the next meeting. Town Administrator Doda
103 indicated to her that some buildings could use a coat of paint. There are some plumbing
104 issues with the bathroom. The Fall Festival is undecided due to public health and having
105 enough personnel. A trail ride is scheduled for September 5th sponsored by the
106 American Legion Post.
107

108 Next Monday is their next meeting.
109

110 D. Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission (Kristina)

111 i. Culvert Project

112 Mrs. Neff Ragsdale thanked Chair Chouinard for his labor and efforts in removing
113 the beaver dam.

114 Chair Chouinard indicated he plans to walk a measuring stick to test the depths
115 and see if they can get a level base for the pipe to be installed.

116 Chair Chouinard indicated some have not cooperated with requests for no-fishing
117 off the bridge during the bridge work. Chair Chouinard noted there has been
118 more bad experiences than good at the area of late. Ms. Snyder observed
119 fishing can be dangerous on the bridge when kids are running past while
120 fishermen are casting. Ms. Munson wondered if fishing can be prohibited on
121 such a narrow essential public walkway or provide a more suitable location. This
122 could be brought up with the WPC&RC. Chair Chouinard noted there is some
123 benefit to Conservation for not stomping the shoreland. A more suitable area
124 could be carved out.

125 Mrs. Neff Ragsdale indicated Leslie Hammond left the Wason Pond Commission and
126 they will approach Mr. Webster who lives across the street and has been helping with
127 stewardship.

Ms. Snyder noted there has been no new news on the pavilion. The traffic pedestrian count will be this month. Fish & Game is affiliated with different organizations asking to donate fishing line receptacles..

Ms. Snyder reported there are a lot of cigarette butts being discarded on the ground and in the water. Chair Chouinard noted there is signage near the beach and better signs could be near the bridge. The Ranger reported the same issues and frequently as soon as he asks to be put up they light back up again. Ms. Snyder noted the same couple of people appears to be littering them. The ranger also removed a 4th non-bridge constructed of damaged picnic tables and debris.

E. Easements, Monitoring & Stewardship

i. Lincoln Lane (scheduling)

Chair Chouinard scheduled the Lincoln Lane monitoring for August 8 and will contact the Lincoln Lane residents.

ii. Monthly Goal

Chair Chouinard indicated Mr. Hume will be helping the Commission catch up with baselines and monitoring on some of the easements this summer.

Selectman Myette recommended at an earlier meeting budgeting a \$5,000 chunk for the rest of the summer for the monitoring. Chair Chouinard noted the easement list is annotated as to which parcels have baselines and what was monitored recently. Mr. Hume will do the Town-owned easements first and hopes to do at least three easements per month. After the Town-owned easements are done the homeowners of the private easements will be contacted to see if they want to join the monitoring walk.

iii. Town Badges

Mr. Hume will go to the PD and get his badge.

F. Trails – GIS License

Mr. Hume noted he just bought his GIS license which is \$100/yr. Selectman Myette indicated it should be acceptable to reimburse him if he is using it for Town use.

PLAN REVIEWS

None

MISCELLANEOUS

5. Powerlines (Deb)

Ms. Munson got an email from Elizabeth at Eversource today in reply to a request by Mr. Hadik. Hopefully Eversource will memorialize what they are going to do. Chair Chouinard drove past 121 and observed one side was wide open and very inviting.

6. North Pond Kiosk (Rick and Kathie)

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale reworked the flyers for the Kiosk and thanked her botanist friend Joanne for assisting. She recommended having something appealing to kids such as a quiz with questions such as *What do the Bladderwort plant and a Dragonfly have in common? Both are carnivorous, etc.* Chair Chouinard recommended updating the disappearing wetlands statistics from 2004/2009. Mrs. Neff Ragsdale will follow up on that.

Mr. Sibley indicated he hopes to do the landscaping before painting on Saturday if the birds have moved out. Selectman Myette asked if the school was still tracking the flora and fauna. Mrs. Neff Ragsdale will reach out to them.

7. Trampoline

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale and Mr. Sibley found a submerged trampoline where they were out kayaking at the far end of North Pond. Mrs. Neff Ragsdale indicated it could have landed there after a storm. The Commission discussed pulling it out with a cable. Ms. Snyder indicated pulling it with a cable could do more damage than leaving it there. Mr. Sibley recommended dismantling it with a cordless saw. Selectman Myette indicated he had a boat and battery-operated hacksaw. Another option would be to lift it and float it out. Chair Chouinard will go out and take a look. Mr. Sibley indicated it could be seen from the road with binoculars. Selectman Myette indicated it sounded like it was located near the marsh by the Remillard property as Mr. Sibley noted construction nearby.

8. Non-Public Sessions pursuant to 91-A:3(II)(a)(d) compensation of a public employee and consideration of the acquisition of real estate

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II)(a)(d). Mr. Hume seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Hume – aye, Myette – aye, Chouinard – aye, Snyder – aye, Neff Ragsdale – aye, Sibley – aye and Munson – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting room was closed to the public at 7:50 PM.

Ms. Hume motioned to come out of non-public session. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Hume – aye, Myette – aye, Chouinard – aye, Snyder – aye, Neff Ragsdale – aye, Sibley – aye and Munson – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting room was reopened to the public at 8:31 PM.

Ms. Snyder motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public sessions. Mrs. Neff Ragsdale seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Hume – aye, Myette – aye, Chouinard – aye, Snyder – aye, Neff Ragsdale – aye, Sibley – aye and Munson – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

205 **9. Adjournment**

206 ***Ms. Snyder motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Munson seconded the motion. A roll***
207 ***call vote was taken Chouinard – aye, Snyder – aye, Munson – aye, Neff Ragsdale – aye,***
208 ***Sibley – aye, Hume – aye and Myette - aye. With all in favor, the motion passed***
209 ***unanimously.***

210 The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

211 Respectfully submitted,

212

213 Nancy Hoijer,
214 Recording Secretary
215 Remotely