



TOWN OF NEW IPSWICH

661 Turnpike Rd, New Ipswich, NH 03071

Conservation Commission



Meeting Minutes November 8, 2023

The Conservation Commission held its regular monthly meeting at the Town Office, 661 Turnpike Road, New Ipswich, New Hampshire, on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

1) Call to Order and Seating of Alternates

Chairman Bob Boynton called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Present at the meeting were Chair Bob Boynton, Vice Chair David McTigue, Member Matthew Oliveira, and Alternate Kleta Dudley. Staff present included the Conservation Commission Secretary, Jennifer Worth.

2) Old Business

a. Approval of minutes -

Chair motioned to approve the October 11, 2023 meeting minutes upon amendments that were discussed amongst the board. Matt Oliveira seconds. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Swearing in of members -

Conservation Commission Secretary will create a spreadsheet with members and terms. This may be presented to the Selectmen in order to swear the proper commission members and renew terms for existing members.

c. Katz Property –

Still waiting for the result of a title search to determine the type of road category on this property.

d. Discussion regarding letter to landowners –

The committee formed last meeting spent the past weeks forming a draft letter to send to New Ipswich landowners. Mr. McTigue is adding a portion about the tax benefits to landowners. Chair requested a draft copy be sent out to all members for proof reading. Mr. Olivera will electronically send out to members when draft is complete. The letter will reference that the Conservation Commission is willing to cover the cost of monitoring, legal costs, future surveys, assessments, environmental studies, and tax consultant fees of the property. It was discussed that this could be put as an incentive for landowners as a, “one time 2024 deal”. Verbiage about

conservation easements will be included in the letter with an explanation as to why it is beneficial to the landowner. For example, tax write offs. The letter should also mention the term, current use and why current use is important. It would be wise to also mention in the letter that conservation does not mean public access. A draft of the letter will be prepared for review by the commission on December 6, 2023. Once the letter is out, those interested in responding to the letter will be invited to attend Conservation Commission's monthly meetings.

3) New Business

a. Lower Pratt Pond Dam –

The Selectmen have received a complaint that a culvert for a dam on Lower Pratt Pond has been covered by a driveway. The matter will be presented at the next Selectmen meeting. Chair was invited to speak about violations of wetlands at this meeting. Chair feels that this is not a conservation matter. He asks the commission for their opinions and if they are in support of not getting involved. The commission agreed that this seems to be a zoning matter. The commission supports Mr. Boynton's non-engagement.

b. NHACC Photo Contest Winner –

The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions announced the first place winner of the 2023 NHACC photo contest was, Amy Severino. Her photo was taken on New Ipswich conservation land at Dam Site 13 on Temple Road. The Commission has received permission to use this photo to highlight the achievement on the Town's website and social media pages.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Conservation Commission, Kleta Dudley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Matt Oliveria seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Worth, Land Use Clerk