



Telephone (603) 673-8855, ext. 216
Fax (603) 673-8136

**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**
Conservation Commission

P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street
BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360

<http://www.brooklinen nh.us>

**Minutes
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
Conservation Commission
Meeting Start at or about 7:00 PM**

Present: Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman
Jay Chrystal, Vice Chairman
Tom Rogers, Member
Jerry Jaworski, Member
Sean McNair, Alternate
Drew Kellner, Alternate Selectboard Representative

Absent: Dana Ketchen, Selectboard Representative, Roy Wallen, Alternate, and
Eric DiVirgilio, Alternate

Buddy said Drew will fill in for Dana tonight.

This meeting was held Virtually via Zoom

Buddy called the meeting to order at 7pm he stated they are meeting electronically and remotely under the governor's Executive Order 2020-04 and Executive Orders #12 and #23. In following with these orders, he asked each commission member to state where they are, why they are there and who, if anyone, is in the room with them. All members responded.

Returning to in public Meetings

Buddy said he understands this maybe the last zoom meeting that the Board will have as the Governor's order will be lifted and they will be able to meet in person again. Drew said that is correct they will be able to meet in the meeting room at the Town Hall after June 11, 2021. Any unvaccinated person will be required to wear a mask in the meeting room. They are looking into having a hybrid option so they will be able to have zoom participation at these meetings.

Minutes (May 11, 2021)

Drew made a motion to approve the May 11, 2021 minutes as written. Tom seconds. Roll call vote Buddy, Jay, Tom, Jerry, and Drew all voted yes.

Tree Removal Committee (Drew)

Drew said this idea was brought to the Selectboard due to the removal of all the trees at the BPW construction site. This committee would be vested with the protection and maintenance of trees on town owned properties and right of ways. Any trees removed would have to be reviewed by an arborist and open to public input before acting on it. **Drew** suggested this be placed before the Conservation Commission first for comments and then go back to the Selectboard if needed. This was presented by Maria Bechis and he asked her to speak to it. **Maria** said Portsmouth has a Tree & Public Greenery Committee she had forwarded their charter to the Board. The charter could be constructed to fit Brookline's needs. She has also emailed out a guide to timber harvesting laws.

Jerry asked if the Trail Committee were to cut in trails and needed to cut a tree down, they would need to have a committee and an Arborist review it. **Maria** said not sure if trees on trails would be so much of an issue. What concerned her is the removal of trees in the public right of ways. The Town could customize the charter so a problematic tree could be removed. **Jay** said you would need to wait a month for a committee and an arborist to give the ok to remove a tree. **Maria** said the committee should work on an on call basis. **Tom** said the Conservation Commission is already vested with the care of town lands per RSA 36. He doesn't believe a tree Committee would fall under the Conservation Commission preview or would need to. **Jerry** said it seems like it would just be another layer of bureaucracy. **Drew** said he is not sure you will ever find a tree that is cut where there wouldn't be someone out there that would find an issue with it. This would add another layer to the process. The Conservation Commission already oversees town owned land. He doesn't believe the Conservation Commission has ever had an issue that would require this type of committee. **Maria** said it wouldn't hurt to have a second opinion on these decisions. She said she was shocked at the number of trees that were removed at the transfer station for the construction of the BPW building. There are laws and she is not sure they are being followed. There were many trees removed along Oak Hill Road and she asked if they were checked for disease before they were removed. People need to have a say in historic tree removal. **Tom** said in his opinion they are already tasked with this as the Conservation Commission. **Buddy** said North Mason Road is listed a scenic road but there's nothing scenic about it now that all the trees are gone. They cut trees at the cemetery for the sidewalk placement. He would support something that would look into roadside trees but not necessarily land that the Conservation Commission oversees. **Jay** said if you are concerned with what happened at the dump then that would need to be a town committee and you would need a town meeting vote for that. **Jerry** said he doesn't believe that this committee would be part of our charter. **Tom** made a motion to not have a tree committee as part of a Conservation Commission effort as we are already charged with management of trees on town property. **Drew** seconded. Roll call vote Buddy, Jay, Tom, Jerry, and Drew all voted yes. **Jay** said this bounces it back to the Selectboard.

Rail Trail update and maintenance (Buddy)

Tom said they should discuss mowing before the Ghost Train Race this year. **Buddy** said the trusses should be weed wacked also.

Composition of the Trails Committee (Tom)

Tom said they have had a lot of interest in the Trails Committee lately. He would like to know if they have the ability to add more people to the Trails Committee. The more volunteers the better. **Jerry** said they have two open slots for Brookline Schools and two equestrian openings. **Drew** said he doesn't see any harm in adding more people.

Recommendation to the Trail Committee (Tom)

Tom said **Bruce Smith** is retired and is looking to volunteer in the community He is interested in the Trails Committee. He said he was interested in the Trails Committee he has already volunteered at a workday. **Drew made a motion to add Bruce Smith as an At Large member of the Trails Committee. Tom seconded. Roll call vote Buddy, Jay, Tom, Jerry, and Drew all voted yes.**

Talbot Taylor Wildlife Preserve

Drew said he has dug up the deed and the 1981 easement to the town that the Selectboard signed. In 1987 the Conservation Commission put forth a management plan that Mr. Taylor didn't like, and he had drawn up a document that stated **Matt Sawyer** would be the person who would manage this property. This document was not signed by the town nor was it recorded so he's not sure if it has any legal standing. **Drew** said he would like to keep this on the agenda for next month's meeting and in the meantime, he will do more research. If this is the case and that document has no legal standing, then we will need to remind owner that there are rule in place by the easement language that need to be abided by. They may want to send all this information to legal counsel for an opinion. **Buddy** said he will speak to **Matt** in the Meantime to start the discussion.

Donation of Benches

Buddy said a friend of his has donated two benches to put along the Railroad Bed. He thought they could put one at **Mary's** trail behind **Sunoco** and maybe on at the north end of the Railroad Bed. They are about 150 lbs. each they just have to pick them up.



Eversource

Buddy said Eversource had sent out another notice that said they were going to do more pole workout on conservation land east of Hutchinson Hill Road. Then he heard that they were trucking in gravel. He said you can drive from Hutchinson Hill to almost where the upper Bartell trail crosses under the power lines. He said they are only working on one pole at a time out there. In the last year they have rescued 5 vehicles out of there. People are driving out there and getting their vehicles launched into the water.

He is going to meet with Alicia (Eversource), and he will ask that they put up barriers at the edge of the Denault property and the conservation land.

Invoice

Buddy said there are two bills for hand pulling milfoil for \$412.50 each and two bills for the Lake Host program one for the \$300 membership fee and a \$7,000 fee for our portion of the lake host salaries.

Drew made a motion to approve the payment of the \$7,000 lake host for salaries and the \$300 Lake Host Membership and 2 invoices for milfoil removal in the amount of \$412.50 each. **Jerry** seconded. Roll call vote **Buddy**, **Jay**, **Tom**, **Jerry**, and **Drew** all voted yes.

Overlook

Buddy said the Overlook Trail is getting overgrown. **Tom** said ok they will put that on the list.

Hobart Fessenden Project

Tom said the bid request went out for the Hobart Fessenden project. **Drew** said they have sent it out to 4 companies and may send the request out to a fifth. Everyone is straight out they are not responding to quotes now.

Drew said at Cider Mill the concrete pad is breaking up a bit and he believes that they should add a couple inches of material over the top of it and add some wire mesh and grade back around it to make it smoother and extend its life.

Tom said we had discussed getting some road pack in there at some point the grass grows so quickly there it is tick city. We would love to have more people use it, but the grass is so long.

Maria Bechis said this is her third meeting with the Conservation Commission and she would like to be an Alternate to the Commission what is her next step. **Buddy** said he would like to address this when they can all meet in person. **Drew** said once you are recommended to the Selectboard then they read the letter and at the next meeting they will appoint you to the commission.

Non-Public

Jay made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (d) for purpose of land acquisition. **Tom** Seconded. Roll call vote **Buddy**, **Jay**, **Tom**, **Jerry**, and **Drew** all voted yes.

Jay made a motion to immediate adjourn the meeting after we come out of non-public session. Drew seconded. Roll call vote Buddy, Jay, Tom, Jerry, and Drew all voted yes.

Jay made a motion to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes. Seconded by Drew. Roll call vote Buddy, Jay, Tom, Jerry, and Drew all voted yes.


Adjourn

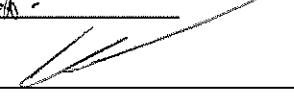
Jay made a motion to adjourn at 8:450pm. Drew seconded. Roll call vote Buddy, Jay, Tom, Jerry, and Drew all voted yes.

Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman, 

Jay Chrystal, Vice Chairman, 

Tom Rogers, Member 

Jerry Jaworski, Member 

Drew Kellner, Selectboard Representative, 

Minutes prepared by Kristen Austin

Next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on July 13, 2021

