



**Town of Henniker
Conservation Commission
Wednesday December 7th, 2022, 7PM
Grange Hall & Zoom**

Members Present: Holly Green, Mark Mitch, Ross Bennett, Maegan Gagne, Roni Hardy, Selectman Scott Osgood

Members Excused:

Recording Secretary: Hank Bernstein

Holly Green called the Conservation Commission to order at 7:11PM

Item #1 – Review and approve 11/2/22 meeting minutes

The Conservation Commission reviewed the meeting minutes of 11/2/22 and discussed edits. **Mark Mitch moved to accept the minutes of 11/2/22 with the discussed edits, seconded by Ross Bennett. The motion was carried unanimously.**

Item #2 – Mail

The Conservation Commission received a response from DES to the response of the homeowner on Western Ave who filed a restoration plan for the violation along the Contoocook River. The plan talks about restoring 800 feet of forest and wetland and managing it according to the restoration plan.

DES sent out a notice of violation related to a structure on Hemlock Corner Loop. This letter notes that the property owner either needs to move the structure or file for a Shoreline Impact Permit.

The Conservation Commission received an email helping them understand their qualifications for receiving funds from Fish and Wildlife. These particular funds were for the protection of anadromous fish, fish that are born in freshwater who spend most of their lives in saltwater and return to freshwater to spawn, which Henniker unfortunately does not have.

The Town Administrator shared a survey about urban trees with the Conservation Commission. The Commission noted that this would be better directed to Parks and Properties.

Item #3 – Report on 11/12/22 Selectboard and Budget Advisory Meeting

Mark unfortunately missed this meeting but shared that he had spoken with the Town Administrator and the Finance Director who told him that the budget from the previous year had been approved.

Item #4 – Request for Proposal for Natural Resources Inventory

Maegan emailed the Town Administrator with a potential consultants list and a draft of the plan. Mark shared that when he had talked to the Town Administrator it was her understanding that there was an RFP to update the Natural Resources Inventory. Holly noted that the Conservation Commission wanted the Town Administrator to review the request before it was sent.

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Item #5 – Other Business

Mark shared chemistry results from both French and Keyser Pond. Both ponds show surface water with high levels of dissolved oxygen and low levels of dissolved phosphorus, and deep waters showing low levels of dissolved oxygen and high levels of dissolved phosphorus. Mark notes that this data shows that these ponds are clearly heavily impacted, by an order of magnitude. This high level of dissolved phosphorus comes in either from the watershed or gets released from the sediment into the water and creates an environment in which bacteria likes to grow.

Maegan asked if there are available funds for mediation efforts on this matter and asks if there is a chemical treatment that can be done. Mark confirms that the goal is to do a chemical treatment, but it is very expensive, and the Conservation Commission needs to prove that there is no watershed phosphorus. Maegan asks how many years of data are needed to identify this, to which Mark notes that they have the data now but the grant they had before fell through with the contractor and they will need to reapply for funds.

Ross notes that he likes the concept of looking at upstream sediments and the Commission could do sediment trap sampling.

Holly shares that Town Hall is looking for missing sets of minutes from the Conservation Commission. She notes that there are some drafts that will need to be revisited and reapproved.

Mark Mitch made a motion to adjourn at 8:18PM, Roni Hardy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Bernstein

Minute Taker