

**TOWN OF HENNIKER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 1, 2023
Henniker Grange Hall & Zoom**

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Holly Green called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Item #1 - Forest Management Plan

Laura French of Meadowsend attended via Zoom to discuss the logistics of her work. She will send a draft contract for the Commission to look over. She had a variety of questions and was told that most of the parcels do have easements on them. She said it would be helpful for her to have copies and Holly will ask Town Hall for copies and will cc: Laura on that. Laura asked what our objectives were for management plans and said that each property will have its own plan. She explained that she does an inventory that includes species, density, ages of trees, wildlife habitat, soil, water and where particular timber management stands are located. She also explained a “sense of place” zone which would be an area with high recreational use.

She will give the Commission a draft management plan for each parcel and after that members can do a site walk with her and talk about the plan. She said that would be doing one property at a time. The Commission would like her to start with the Watman easement, as it has the most potential.

She would like a “loose” draft of the Commission’s priorities so she can determine goals and objectives. She asked about a time frame and there isn’t one currently.

Laura is planning to join the December meeting at around 7:45 via Zoom, as the Commission is meeting with Jeff Littlefield of Moosewood Ecological at the beginning of that meeting.

Item #2 - Buxton land update

Holly mentioned that the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has a farmland grant program going on and she plans to check and see if there are any relevant grant opportunities. Mark said that the property has a very small wetland area that is probably less than half an acre. He has not heard from the Buxtons recently and it might be a good idea to have a meeting with them in the near future.

Item #3 - NHACC annual meeting

The annual N.H.Association of Conservation Commissions meeting was the following Saturday and Holly was planning to attend. The members reviewed the list of workshops online and most were already full, so no one else was planning to register.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Roni Hardy, interim minute taker