

## FINAL



**Town of Henniker  
Conservation Meeting  
Wednesday June 5, 2019  
Grange Hall**

**Members Present:** Holly Green, Mark Mitch, Ross Bennett, Sachie Howard, Drew Major

**Members Excused:** Tracy Sudhalter

**Recording Secretary:** Kelly McCutcheon

1. Review & approve draft minutes for May 1, 2019 meeting

**Drew moved to accept the minutes as amended. Sachie seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

2. Update on French Pond & Keyser Pond water quality data – Mark Mitch

The phosphorus concentrations in Keyser Pond is the same level as last year, while French Pond is seeing a build up of phosphorus as lower levels. Last year French Pond also had similar readings, but had a wonderful summer with no massive algae blooms. Mark will be going out next week to see what algae is active, although it was not until July last year that the algae blossoms popped up. Drew asked many times in the last 10 years has French Pond been closed (5 or 6) and stated that when French Pond does bloom it tends to be less intense than when Keyser has blooms. French Pond has been very active in terms of the wildlife and people fishing off the bank by the parking lot.

3. Update on Town of Henniker's Hazard Mitigation Plan – Holly Green

Holly is on the Hazard Mitigation Committee, who recently published their draft plan on the website. One of the action items is protecting land against flooding and bank stabilization. Holly has been unable to attend the meetings since they are held during the weekday morning, Sachie offered to attend the meetings as Holly's alternative.

The plan also includes culvert stabilization, which maybe eligible for the drinking water and ground water grant that is available with a 50/50 match and capped at \$500,000. It is a generous grant and should be considered for next year.

4. Conservation Opportunities

There is \$50,000 in the Conservation Easements and Acquisitions fund. With lot 660 not being recommend for auction for potential conservation value, the commission recommends a site visit to push for conservation for the wildlife habitat. There has been a push for putting ledge

## **FINAL**

habitats for the highest conservation value. Mike Lambert made the point back in March that there were a lot of sightings of bob cats and other animals. The assessed value of lot 660 is \$90,000ish, however there are many conservation grants that are 50/50 and the commission will look to see what grants are available.

The Commission is also interested in lot 735 which is mostly underwater on Craney Hill. The property is assessed at \$73,000, which is surprising since the property is underwater. Ross stated last time the property was surveyed the surveyor was unable to locate and map it. To be further looked into.

Azalea Park's proposed plan includes building an amphitheater for educational purposes near the baseball field. The function is for the kids to use it while they are waiting for their parents, getting the kids interested in preserving the park and keeping it neat, highlighting the Contoocook River and the wetlands and educating kids and adults on the importance of conservation, in addition to other educational activities.

Town Administrator, Matt Henry, sent an email regarding installing kiosks for the trails, ponds, and lakes. The Commission noted as a town wide project it would be good if tied into the trails and recreational areas. If there is a long-term plan in place to identify the areas and placing, and the kiosks are somewhat standardized throughout town, the Commission is interested although they presently do not have the time to lead the project, but would like to stay informed moving forward on the project.

Azalea Park kiosk is completed and a stand-alone kiosk, and a lot of money was spent putting the content on the kiosk. The Eisner kiosk is also completed.

### **5. Other business**

Intent to cut lot 277-C

A letter was received from a butterfly collector asking about the best open fields find butterflies. Old Concord Road, Amery Brook, and the top of Dodge Hill Road were recommended.

Drew stated the NH Audubon is making a big push for pollinators, and that they are hosting an all-day seminar in July in Durham with pollinator biologist. The Stone Fall Gardens is also making a big pollinator bush. This is the year of the pollinator.

Sachie stated Azalea Park has the replica arch and kiosk installed, native pollinators have been planted and the official ceremony will be held this Saturday at 1pm. The Colby Hill Inn is making cookies and the Harvester Market is donating Raspberry punch. Drew stated the pictures taken should be posted on the town website. Sachie stated that Azalea Park is gladly accepting any donations for the work that still needs to be completed.

## **FINAL**

Mark stated the Herring had a successful nest, and although the chicks are too small to see there are chicks in the nest.

**Drew moved to adjourn. Mark seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Adjourn at 8:45pm.**