

Conway Conservation Commission Minutes
November 14, 2023; 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road

Present for the Conservation Commission: Grace Larson, Chair; Louise Beckett, Brittany Nickerson, Tony Somers

Others Present: Edward Stuart & son

Grace convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

On a motion from Grace to approve the minutes of October 24, 2023, Tony seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Financial

None

Building Permits/Site Visits

None

Forest Cutting Plans

None

Notices

None

Updates

• **Bigelow Property and Pollinator Group**

Grace suggested that they may need to break up their plan into smaller sections or stages. Tony indicated that their first priority is getting rid of the invasives. Breaking up the plan into stages may work, but by the time the last stage is completed, the invasives may have returned to the first section. Tony had suggested to the Committee that a more definite plan be addressed along with the Pollinator group involvement, and suggested that the Pollinator Group identify all the pollinator areas they are working collectively to see if CPA money could be used for planting and continued maintenance of these areas as a whole.

Hearings

• **6:14 p.m. – Enforcement Order – E. Stuart - Continued**

Edward needs to contact those parties who control the shared driveway access to see if he could purchase a portion so that he could have access to his property - unclear if he meant the South Deerfield Water Supply, or those property owners who have a shared driveway access, which does not include his property. The access Edward is using which is through the water supply access road which is private, with no trespassing signs posted.

- **6:20 p.m. – Discussion of Shared Conservation Agent**

Tony mentioned that if small towns don't have a wetlands by-law, then it's not difficult for a shared agent to work with different towns' ConComs. Towns with by-laws make handling of filings more difficult, with needing someone with more expertise, than just administrative. Grace noted that most of the wetland regulations were geared towards the eastern part of the state; small towns need to tweak the regulations to fit their situation. Tony suggested rather than having a shared agent, it might prove more beneficial if the town were to hire an administrative assistant. Grace noted that Veronique Blanchard was looking into that. Louise noted also that it's hard to find a person willing to work 5 hours a week and mostly at night.

Other Unannounced Business

None

There will be no meeting on November 28, 2023. Next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, General Purpose Room. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

At 6:58 p.m. on a motion from Grace to adjourn, Tony seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.