

# TILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 19, 2021

## MINUTES

### VIRTUAL MEETING

Members present: Chuck Mitchell, Chair; Jim Cropsey; Bob Hardy; Helen Hanks; Jan Landry; Paul Rushlow; Jon Scanlon; and Kathi Mitchell

**Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:01 p.m.**

1. The Chair read a Right-To-Know Law Meeting Checklist in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, that this Board is authorized to meet electronically, providing public access by telephone dialing 1-866-899-4679 and using pin 238-034-701. Anyone who is interested can participate by clicking on <http://global.gotomeeting.com/join/238034701>. All votes taken will be by a roll call vote. The Chair then held a roll call of members present and asked others present to introduce themselves and to declare if they were alone in the room.
2. **Minutes:** Jon made a **motion** to accept the March minutes, and Bob seconded the motion. The members present voted 6 in favor, with one abstention, to approve the minutes by a roll call vote.
3. **Old Business:**
  - a) **Loon Project** – Jan continues her work on the Loon Project having written an article which may be published by NH Audubon in their quarterly publication. She is working with interested parties in Northfield to place fishing line recycling boxes at Knowles Pond and at Riverfront park. The Winnisquam Watershed Network is also interested in assisting with this project. Jan will send a copy of her article to all TCC members. There was a discussion about funding for the boxes. Jan will research the cost and bring that information to the commission. Helen made a **motion** to provide funding for boxes especially one for the trail near Salmon Run. Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor after a roll call vote. Other possible sites were discussed. The secretary was asked to contact NH Fish & Game to see if they would allow a box near the boat ramp.
  - b) **Buffalo Park Earth Day** – Bob and the Parks Commission spearheaded a cleanup of tress which had been blown over by winds. Thanks to the seven Winnisquam Ag center students and teacher Mike Petrun who gave up a Saturday morning to assist with this project. All trails are now open. Bob also thanked Peter Fogg, Paul Rushlow, Chuck Mitchell, and Kathi Mitchell for helping.
  - c) **Re-appointments** – All paperwork has been completed and Jan will be sworn in this week.

#### 4. New Business:

**a) Possible wetlands violation at 600 West Main Street** – The TCC noted that notifications regarding this project came second hand or from NH DES. There were questions about why NH DES did not require a permit for the work done and why the case was abruptly closed. Contact with NH DES indicated that remediation took place prior to the March 22 letter they sent, which was received a week later at Town Hall. While it appears that no permit is required for installing a drywell, there were questions about the stream stabilization and who oversaw the work. Other questions were discussed but there was little information available. It was noted that if any person or entity wishes to know more about this matter, that all questions should be directed to the Land Use Office.

**b) Review of February 9 Planning Board minutes** – The issue was revisited that two people spoke at this meeting stating that the TCC was “satisfied” and that “all issues were resolved” even though neither individual had spoken to any TCC member. It was stated that this behavior sets an unfortunate precedent allowing any applicant, developer, or engineer to make statements for the TCC without ever communicating with them. Helen made a **motion**, which was seconded by Paul, to hold a Collaboration and Communication gotomeeting with the Planning Board members, Zoning Board members, and the TCC to introduce ourselves, review statutes, discuss mutual collaboration and types of communication, and to establish mutual respect and understanding. Helen offered to moderate the session. The members voted by roll call vote and the motion was approved unanimously. The secretary was asked to compile a list of Planning Board and Zoning Board members.

**c) Overgrown garden at Salmon Run** – Helen reported that there are some healthy lupines on the property and we are looking forward to more of the wildflowers that were planted. She added some additional seeds. The chair was asked to contact Public Works to ask them not to mow or weedwhack around the fence so that the plants can have a chance to grow this year. Jim shared his planting guide. We need to treat the section of grass nearest the town differently than the section nearest the parking lot. There was a discussion of how to clean up the flower garden to the east of the parking lot. One solution would be mulch, which Paul and Chuck will handle. Jon, Helen, and Kathi offered to work on weeding and removing dead materials. Helen made a motion that the Chair obtain several bids for hiring someone to provide landscape services. Bob seconded the motion and all were in favor. Another option may be to put notices on local Facebook sites.

**d) TCC letters/documents** – Since all letters from the TCC are shared with members prior to being sent, it would seem prudent to sign all names of the members on every correspondence so recipients will understand that this is a commission statement and not just comments from a single person.

**Correspondence:**

a) NH DES File #2020-028772 997 Laconia Road Tax Map U01/Lot 14 – One letter was dated November 6, 2020 and stated that a complaint had been received regarding dredging in Lake Winnisquam without a permit or authorization.

Received on March 19, 2021 was a Letter of Deficiency from NH DES for the property listed above. A wetlands scientist needs to be hired by April 30 and a restoration plan submitted by May 31 to NH DES.

Additionally, the TCC received formal complaints related to this project from Cynthia and William Crum including a very detailed timeline of events. The TCC appreciates the letter with information from Mr. and Mrs. Crum.

**Other:**

- a) The chair noted that he was told he was not permitted to meet with the selectboard to discuss any issues or concerns at this time.
- b) Helen will attend the next meeting of the Planning Board to share ideas and information.
- c) Information was reviewed about the Calef Hill driveway request.
- d) Winnisquam Market – SailView
- e) It was suggested that TCC rotate chairmanship of meetings every few months so that other boards, commissions, organizations, and departments understand that we are a cohesive working group. All members are active participants who share a common mission. Information is provided to all members so that everyone is on an equal basis. The members are well-known for their dedication and hard work for the town.

Helen made the **motion to adjourn** which was seconded by Kathi. All were in favor after a roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Mitchell, secretary