

TILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 16, 2021

MINUTES

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

Guest: Jeremy Degler

Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Tighe & Bond Eversource Structure Replacements** – The TCC received late (4:21 pm August 16) and incomplete materials related to this project even though the applicant had provided them to the town a week in advance. Jeremy Degler from Eversource said that the three structures will be located in wetland buffers and not in the wetlands. There will be a temporary impact of 7,324 square feet. They have received a driveway permit from NH DOT. The TCC had questions about the access road and the continuation of the brook which is not shown on the map. Jeremy said he will be checking the site weekly and will make sure that the silt fences and other protective equipment will be in place. There were questions about line numbers that were similar. Jeremy stated that there are no steep slopes and no wildlife. The commissioners spoke of the bird population in the area including bald eagles and osprey. Eversource will monitor this. The poles being replaced will be cut down to the ground and removed from the site, but the stumps will remain in place and Jeremy will be responsible. The TCC will summarize their comments and send them to Jeremy and to the Planning Board.
2. **Non-Public Session** – At 7:25 pm, Kathi moved to enter into a *Non-Public Session as per RSA 91-A:3 II(c) Matters, which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting.* The motion was seconded by Jim. A roll call vote was held and all voted yes. At 7:45 Jim made a motion, seconded by Helen, to come out of the non-public session. A roll call vote was held and all were in favor. Jon made a motion and Helen seconded the motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session. A roll call vote was held and all were in favor.
3. **Old Business:**
 - a) **U-Haul Project-** NH DES approved their dredge and fill application on August 13. The TCC reviewed our concerns about snow storage and the septic system. It appears that the applicant will be asking the ZBA for permission to construct a septic system within 125 feet of the wetlands. The history of the Planning Board and the TCC working together on the Wetlands Ordinance in 2004 and 2005 was reviewed. Tilton voters approved the ordinance in 2005 by a vote of 290 to 71. Helen made a **motion** which was seconded by Jim to send a notice to the ZBA and Planning Board to advise them to have the U-Haul engineers develop an alternative plan for locating the septic system in a more appropriate location and to remind both boards of the history of the Wetlands Ordinance. The secretary will send this information to the ZBA, and will ask them to deny the request.

- b) **Selectboard meeting July 29**- The intent of the meeting was to encourage better communication between Town Hall and various boards and commissions. The commissioners would hope that any time an application comes to town hall that the TCC should be provided a copy. Our duties and responsibilities were reviewed with the board. The Selectboard wants to meet to discuss Mitigation Priorities. The TCC selected September 9 at 6:20 pm as a good time to do this. Chuck will send this information to Town Hall. Jon will ask the Planning Board for their input regarding mitigation and mitigation questions. Information will be collated for the September meeting which will include a half-hour public hearing to discuss mitigation priorities.
- c) **Loon Project** – Chuck and Helen will check with Jan on progress being made. Jim mentioned that the signs at the boat launches seem to have disappeared. He and Jon will work on this project.
- d) **Mitigation questions** – The secretary will resend them to the members in Word.
- e) **BioBlitz** – It has been difficult to access the information needed so we will put this on hold for this year.

4. **Minutes:** Helen made a **motion** to accept the July minutes as amended, and Bob seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

5. **New Business:**

- a) **WWN sponsorship** – Several Conservation Commissions in the area have agreed to be sponsors to assist the WWN with their mission. The TCC agreed that this was a good idea given their stewardship for Lake Winnisquam which is important to our community. It was agreed to be a \$400 sponsor. Chuck will work on the details and the TCC will vote at the September meeting.
- b) **Salmon Run** – The section nearest town has some ragweed that will be difficult to remove given that it spreads by seed and by rhizomes. The chair asked if Ryan Scanlon might be willing to cut the taller weeds for the TCC. Jon will check with him.

4. **Correspondence:**

- a) NH DES File #2021-02122 528 Laconia Road Tax Map R10 Lot 9 - Youssef - July 21, 2021
- b) Email - Davis Brush SCA NH Conservation Corps July 28, 2021

5. **Other:**

- a) **Trees on the Island** – There have been concerns about roots and dead branches as well as the best ways to deal with these problems. Bob provided Jon and Paul with the name of an urban forester A. J. Dupere who spent time with the commissioners checking the condition of the trees and looking at problems and solutions. He found that there are only two main types of trees on the Island and it is known that having a variety of tree species is healthier. He also noted that there should be a maintenance plan in place. The larger maple in the center of the Island needs to be taken down. Jon will include this in his notes. Mr. Dupere also offered suggestions for aeration, mulching, and fertilization. He will prepare a written report as well. He and Jon continued to check trees throughout the town and discussed many options, as well as the need for a plan to water downtown ornamental pear trees. Pruning issues were discussed. Bob and Jon will work on tree mapping and locating pictures and maps of the Island. There may be a chance that Mr. Dupere would provide a walking tour and discussion about trees for the TCC and the community.

Helen made the **motion to adjourn** which was seconded by Paul. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Mitchell, secretary