

TILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

October 17, 2022

MINUTES

Members present: Chuck Mitchell; Bob Hardy; Ken Norton; Paul Rushlow, Jon Scanlon; and Kathi Mitchell

Guests: Emmalee Garvin; Cindy O'Connell

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

- 1. Emmalee Garvin WRSD Ag Center:** Ms. Garvin explained her concern about multiple invasive plants located in the forested area of the WRSD easement which is monitored by the TCC. She is planning to have the students remove the invasives manually. The members offered suggestions for dealing with these plants and provided contact information for experts who might be able to assist.
- 2. Winnisquam Watershed Network:** Cindy spoke of efforts by the WWN in regard to land conservation and land protection in the watershed. Members discussed their concerns and suggestions for possible properties in the community that could be conserved. The members also reviewed the request from the WWN for payment from the Improving and Maintaining Lakes Capital Reserve Fund for 6.5 days of milfoil removal in the Jay's Marina area of Lake Winnisquam. NH DES paid for half of the work, and the Town is being asked by the WWN to pay the remainder from this voter-approved fund. Bob made the **motion** to approve \$4550 for work completed on July 5, 7 (half day), and 14; August 19; September 26; and October 1. Jon seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Invasive plants outside the lake continue to be a problem that will need to be addressed in the future.
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes from September were reviewed. Jon made a **motion** to accept the minutes as presented. Bob seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- 4. Old Business:**
 - a) WRTA Trail** – There is an online auction to raise funds for the trail association. All are encouraged to participate.
The Commission continues to work on trail markers. Chuck purchased a special tool and ties to attach the trail markers to the fence, and he will contact Jim to move forward with this project.
 - b) Salmon Run** – The town mowed the property as requested but blew the clippings toward the river so the wildflower seeds will not grow in the mowed area next spring. The woman who weeded the perennial area has been paid. The sumac has returned along the river's edge. Chuck will talk with Katherine Dawson about using the prison crew to clear the sumac.
 - c) Easement Monitoring** - There is an app for mapping that could be utilized in easement monitoring. The secretary will study this further and report next month. Members discussed various problems with apps and drones as opposed to field monitoring.
 - d) The Preserve** – The Planning Board will be discussing the project at its October 25 meeting. The TCC continues to be concerned about salt usage and salt storage on the property. The applicant has stated that there will be no salt storage and salt usage will not be an issue during the winter months. Any change in this matter should require the applicant to return to the Planning Board to review the conditions for salt use on the property.

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The commissioners continue to have a concern about protecting the loons from being interfered with by hotel guests who visit the point closest to the loon nesting areas. It is also hoped that the plan to bring brides by boat to the wedding venue (as mentioned by the applicant) will be sure to avoid the loon nesting area. The Keach report noted that there should be a performance bond, and the TCC strongly supports this action. The members noted that the Keach report stated that there shall be no “excavation, construction, or building within 25-feet of a known burial ground or cemetery” (RSA 289:3, III). The TCC would like to see a physical barrier/fence erected around the cemetery to prevent any damage or desecration to the graves both during and after construction.

5. New Business:

- a) **Silver Lake Association** – Pauline Tessier plans to attend the January meeting to discuss the proposed dam study at Silver Lake. They have received a \$530,000 grant to study the idea. Ken explained about an earlier study that was done for this same area that indicated that there were problems with placing a dam at this site. The potential impacts on downstream areas were considered. The commissioners had questions about how many people on Silver Lake will be impacted. What about flow levels downstream? Dredging issues and wildlife protection were also discussed. The State controls water releases from Winnepesaukee; how would this be affected? There is also an area where asbestos may be found in the bank that could be carried downstream to Tilton. How will the Tioga Swamp area be impacted?
- b) **NHACC dues** – Jon made a **motion** to pay the NHACC dues for 2023. Bob seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

6. Correspondence:

- a) **email from Pauline Tessier of the Silver Lake Association regarding the planned study for a dam project**
- b) **NH DES File #2022-02848 725 Laconia Road R9 Lots 25, 26, 27 Anchorage Winnisquam LLC – Standard Dredge and Fill application filed October 3**
- c) **NH DES File #2022-02874 725 Laconia Road R 9 Lots 25, 26, 27 Anchorage Winnisquam LLC – Standard Dredge and Fill application filed October 5**
- d) **Letter from Silver Lake Association thanking Tilton for milfoil removal payment**

7. Other:

- a) The crab apple trees in the parking lot at THOP need to be trimmed for tree maintenance and pedestrian safety. There is a certain time and way to do the pruning. Paul and Jon have volunteered to do this, provided that the Selectboard will approve.
- b) There was a spirited discussion about town issues.

Jon made the **motion** to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Paul seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Kathi Mitchell, secretary