

**JOINT MEETING of the  
Northfield, Sanbornton, and Tilton, NH  
Conservation Commissions  
April 17, 2023  
MINUTES**

Attendees: Brad Crosby, Richard Ayers, Ray Masse, Gail Morrison  
Mark Chaffee, Karen C., David Krause, Mary Lee, Charlie Page, Tony Pucci  
Chuck Mitchell, Jim Cropsey, Helen Hanks, Bob Hardy, Ken Norton, Paul Rushlow, Jon Scanlon, Ben Wadleigh,  
Kathi Mitchell

The meeting at Tilton Town Hall was opened by Chuck at 6:00 p.m.

1. Introductions

2. Tilton members continue to deal with issues related to commercial development and loss of green space. The plan by NH DOT to replace guardrails near Salmon Run is a concern as the current proposal would alter the flow of the Winnepesaukee River. Buffalo Park is a 55-acre conservation area that the Tilton Parks Commission monitors.

Northfield members spoke about plans for a Town Cleanup Day this spring as well as a water testing project being conducted at Knowles Pond. The stocking of brook and brown trout by the State is anticipated. Easements were also discussed.

Sanbornton members spoke about easements acquired and working with NRCS and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. There are a number of trails that have been created, with room for more. They hope to have a Trail Committee to assist with this effort. They also hope to develop a nature trail across from Sanbornton Central as a learning space for students and residents. Easement monitoring is an important activity performed by the commissioners.

3. There was a question about American chestnuts, followed by further discussion. Jim Cropsey said that he had access to rough-hewn pine/hemlock for use in building wood duck boxes. Beaver dams and how to deal with them can be a concern. Invasive plants continue to create problems for landowners, as well as the three communities. EDDMapS is an app from the University of Georgia that allows users to document and submit information about local invasives to a database for verification.

4. Communication continues to be important to the three commissions. This meeting is designed as a way to get acquainted and to begin the process of sharing information and ideas. There was a question about encouraging the growth of resistant butternut (white walnut) trees. How commissions handle expedited dredge and fill permits was discussed. The idea of preparing walking trail maps was presented, as were the myriad problems that have been encountered in connection with trail use.

5. Ultimately, a task that faces all three commissions is how to involve and educate more young people to become involved with the conservation of town resources. With this in mind, it seemed to be the consensus for the members of the three commissions to meet again in late summer/early fall to continue the discussion. More details will follow at that time.

The joint meeting was adjourned at 7:20.

Respectfully submitted by Kathi Mitchell