

MEETING
Tilton Conservation Commission
Tilton Town Hall
April 15, 2024
MINUTES

Present: Chuck Mitchell, Jim Cropsey, Bob Hardy, Ken Norton, Paul Rushlow, and Kathi Mitchell
Guest: Janice Della Croce

The meeting of the Tilton Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

1. **Minutes from February:** After review, Jim made a **motion** to accept the minutes as presented. Bob seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
2. **Old Business:**
 - a) **Salmon Run** – The chain for the parking lot has been taken down. Chuck will contact the DPW about a mowing schedule. The TCC will need to set a clean-up day. Over-grown perennials need to be split and moved elsewhere.
 - b) **WRTA** – Spring cleanup is scheduled for June 1. Work clearing trees on the Franklin side was recently completed. Trash at Nucar continues to be a problem. Ken will take more pictures. Chuck will contact the Health Officer. He will also try to visit Nucar to discuss the matter. There was a question about whether to encourage Nucar to move their dumpsters. Jim will continue his work putting up distance markers on the trail. He has a GPS app to mark coordinates so he can provide the police and fire departments with maps.
 - c) **Taking Action for Wildlife** – Four members attended all or some of the four webinars offered, so the TCC is eligible to apply for a technical assistance project from the UNH/NH F&G. A number of ideas were discussed. While communication with other boards and commissions is a priority, there isn't enough time to arrange for their involvement. It seems best to focus on locating and mapping culverts that could be used by fish and other wildlife. Jim has received a national grant for assisting with mallard duck habitats. There was also a discussion about locating and establishing conservation and recreational easements along the Winnepesaukee River (West Main Street) to create more trails for residents. The secretary will research owners and tax maps for the next meeting.
 - d) **FEMA FIRM**– No information is available at this time.
3. **New Business:**
 - a) **Reappointments** - Paul has completed the paperwork for being reappointed and has been sworn in by the town clerk. Kathi and Ben will do the same shortly.
 - b) **Election of Officers** – Bob made a **motion**, seconded by Ken, to nominate Chuck as chair. The motion was approved with one abstention. Jim made a **motion**, seconded by Kathi, to nominate Helen and Bob a vice chairs. The motion was approved with one abstention.
 - c) **Janice Della Croce** of the Land Use Department shared maps of two proposed projects, one on Hill Road and the other on Range Road. Members noted that the septic systems will need to be located 125' from the wetlands as per Zoning Regulation 14.7.1. There was also a question about lot size and whether the lots conform to the Table of Dimensional Values for the Rural Agriculture

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District. Also, the property seems to be in current use which requires a ten-acre minimum. Many of these new lots will not meet that requirement. Who in town is responsible for monitoring current use evaluation and changes?

6. Correspondence – There was none.

7. Other –

a) There was a question about the status of the DOT project on East Main Street to move utility poles and to begin the process of replacing the failing guardrail. This would be the first step needed for the town to remove the bridge and/or to protect and preserve the Island. Chuck will contact the Town Administrator.

b) Jim explained more about a grant he received from Cabelas and Bass Pro Shops to build forty mallard hen houses throughout NH (the first in the Northeast!). He is looking for wetland areas that don't vary greatly with water increases. Some birds will also use the nests. He is thinking about the areas near the former Jay's Marina, behind Market Basket, and behind J Jill. This will be a continuing project through the year.

Jim made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Bob at 8:39 p.m. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by Kathi Mitchell