



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room.

Steven Perkins, Chair, presided:

Members of the Commission Present:

Gina Rosati, Secretary
Cindy Glenn
Michael Drouin, Alternate Member
Ellen Kolb, Alternate Member
David Trippett, Alternate Member
Councilor Andy Hunter

Members of the Commission Absent:

Michael Boisvert, Vice Chair
Gage Perry
Eric Starr

Also Participating:

Tim Tenhave, Former MCC Commissioner
Andrew Duane, WFCAs Sub-committee
Cliff Loverme, Michael Loverme Foundation

Chair Perkins designated Ellen Kolb, David Trippett and Michael Drouin to sit in as voting members.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Presentation of request from Brenna Gee (via Merrimack Outdoors.org) to hold a small (6 person) wedding ceremony in Grater Woods (Beebe Lane Deck) on Sunday, June 19, 2022. Discussion took place among Commissioners and, as with past requests, it was determined that as long as the property is left in the same condition (no trash, decorations removed), Brenna and Hayden are welcome to celebrate their wedding ceremony at Grater Woods. Brenna had offered a donation to Grater Woods, but the discussion supported that Brenna and Hayden spend it on their wedding. Commissioner Rosati to email Brenna that the Commission approved her wedding ceremony request.

PUBLIC HEARINGS –

-Consider the recommended changes to Chapter 111 of the Town Code

Tim Tenhave a former Conservation Commissioner led the conversation. He explained the update to Chapter 111 began in 2018 and they are currently at step 5, in phase 3 of the plan with 4 phases in all. The Commission previously evaluated all of the open space properties in Merrimack. This included those properties the Conservation Commission owns by deed and those belonging to the Town of Merrimack set aside as Conservation land. The original list included 62 parcels and now includes 64. Town staff reviewed the list and the Commission then drafted language to be used for an update. This update was presented to the Town Council approximately a year ago. Feedback received from Town Council was then incorporated into the proposed draft. Additionally, the Town Manager and legal counsel reviewed the proposed changes. Now the Commission needs to vote on whether or not they agree with the language of Chapter 111 so they can go before Town Council again to turn the draft into the updated Chapter 111 of the Town Code through the charter process.

He continued to explain that currently, Chapter 111 covers 6 parcels and the same restrictions apply to all 6 parcels. The penalties are a violation of RSA31:39, III which is the RSA that covers ordinance violations and can carry a fine of up to \$1,000. He covered all of the current restrictions which include things such as no glass, no alcohol or unlawful drugs, and no throwing or leaving trash. The proposal outlined updated penalties which follow a tiered approach, and parcels have been divided into three categories instead of one. The categories include parcels that follow general restrictions, parcels with restricted hours, and parcels designated as completely passive - meaning no motorized vehicles of any kind, bows, air-powered weapons, firearms, or taking of wildlife which includes hunting.

Mr. Tenhave went through all categories of restrictions in more detail and showed a draft version of the Chapter 111 language. He mentioned that Chapter 111 draft mentioned that target shooting is prohibited but the Town's legal counsel advised target shooting should be better defined. The draft was updated with language better defining target shooting. He pointed out that for parcels under general and hour restriction categories, language has been updated to state that Town Council, or a designated agent, can suspend these rules for any person or group of people after seeking review and recommendation of the Conservation Commission. Parcels under the completely passive category will not include this additional language because most of these parcels are under deed restrictions which cannot be overridden.

The draft also explains the new tiered approach violations and penalties would follow which follows a first, second, and third offense penalty. He then circled back to explain Town legal counsels recommendation for defining target shooting. He explained that they can legally prevent weapons that are air-powered, spring-powered, or bows. However, firearm restrictions are a gray area. He explained there are a few RSAs to consider. One RSA states that land owners can restrict the use of any kinds of firearm on their property, since the Conservation Commission is a land owner this type of restriction would be within their power. Another RSA says that only the State can control uses of firearms which would be in conflict of the way Chapter 111 is currently written.

He also mentioned there are some RSAs specific to NH Fish & Game that would allow restrictions on hunting. Town legal counsel was unsure of the outcome if someone were to challenge Chapter 111 without target shooting defined. Considering this, Mr. Tenhave wanted to hear feedback from the Commission on how strong they think the language should be. He does have a copy that separates target shooting from firearms. He also noted that the original Chapter 111 did not include target shooting and has been in effect since 1994. He spoke of Parks & Recreation having a target shooting restriction since 1990 and Horse Hill Nature Preserve having a similar restriction for 17 years. As far as he knows, these restrictions have never been challenged because the restrictions are clear.

Councilor Hunter mentioned it is important to consider public safety and said if he was out walking on a Conservation property, he would not want to hear someone shooting. The purpose of setting this land aside is for the general public to enjoy. It is important that they feel safe while using the land. Considering this, he didn't see an issue with limiting target shooting on these properties. Mr. Tenhave mentioned Chapter 111 stated no discharge of a firearm is allowed however you could carry while using the property, concealed or not. Chair Perkins agreed, highlighting that the Commission is not looking to take away the rights of those who want to carry a firearm, they are looking to limit target shooting on these parcels. Considering similar restrictions had been in effect for other parcels for many years, he feels the risk is low of someone fighting these restrictions.

Commissioner Trippett brought up a few questions. One regarding the restriction against making fires, and also questioned why individuals or small groups can't sleep or camp on the properties. He commented that the Town has an abundance of land, however there are so many restrictions, he isn't sure how this benefits the public. He mentioned he personally has challenges accessing properties such as Sklar where boulders have been placed in front of pathways making it harder for him to enjoy the properties. Seeing that resident's tax dollars go towards maintaining these parcels, he feels it's important to make sure the land is accessible for all. He also had concerns about the restriction of E-bikes and wasn't sure what the difference was between the different classes of E-bikes.

Mr. Tenhave commented that there had previously been forest fires at some Conservation properties which led to the decision to prohibit fires. He noted that if a group or individual wanted to go out and have a fire, there was a pathway to do this via permission from Town Council, or a designated agent. He continued that as far as camping, there can be issues with improper disposal of human waste and trash. He reiterated that the Commission would have to determine whether or not they wanted to go forward with the proposed language changes, or if they felt revisions needed to be made. He then briefly explained E-bikes stating that Class I E-Bikes could only go up to 20mph, which would be quite fast on a trail. He stated that Class 2 and 3 E-Bikes have much bigger batteries and can go quite a bit faster and could potentially damage trails.

Councilor Hunter recalled from previous conversations that the Commission determined Class I E-bikes were no more dangerous than a regular bicycle. However Class II and III E-bikes would potentially cause damage to trails and create issues between bikers and walkers. He also added

that fires have been prohibited since 1994. The only change is that there would now be a pathway to ask permission from Town Council, or a designated agent.

Commissioner Drouin mentioned that currently no alcohol or unlawful drugs were permitted. He questioned what would happen if Cannabis were legalized. Mr. Tenhave responded that he imagines it would no longer be an unlawful drug. Commissioner Drouin questioned if the taking of wildlife included fishing to which Mr. Tenhave responded that he believes fishing is covered under a different section. Commissioner Drouin questioned if individuals who committed violations or penalties would only be charged the Chapter 111 fees. Mr. Tenhave responded that if multiple crimes were committed, the individual could be punished (if found guilty) for each crime under other State RSAs.

Questions regarding whether or not funds collected from violations would go into a general fund, or if they could be placed in the Conservation Commission. Mr. Tenhave responded the suggestion for collected money to go into the Commissions fund could certainly be suggested by the Commission. He did suggest that they confirm that RSA 31:39 which allows for the penalty would allow any funds collected to go into a fund other than the general fund.

Commissioner Rosati questioned if under point F of Chapter 111, rocks could be added under the list of things not be removed or defaced. Commissioner Kolb added that it was important to keep in mind the difference between land used for parks and land set aside for conservation. She stated that there is a statutory commission that may or may not extend to recreational uses which should be kept in mind when looking at Chapter 111. Chair Perkins stated he felt the Commission was in agreement to go forward with the document, rocks could be added under point F, but the rest of the document looked good.

Mr. Duane, spoke as a private citizen. He had one question regarding Chapter 111. He abuts the Woodward Road Conservation property. This property features a few paths built by Mr. Duane's neighbors. He noted the original wording stated that dogs were to be permitted on leash, rein, or in a cage. He was unsure what rein meant. Mr. Tenhave responded that a rein would be similar to a horses reins. Mr. Duane then questioned if this wording had all been removed and replaced by Chapter 119 to which Mr. Tenhave responded that was the current suggestion.

The next step is to put together an agenda request to the Town Council for the first reading. Mr. Tenhave said he would be happy to do this, but would prefer to have a member of the Conservation Commission present as well.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO APPROVE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO CHAPTER 111 OF THE TOWN CODE.

SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TRIPPETT

MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0

APPOINTMENTS – None

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS –

-Michael Loverme Foundation (MLF) request to place a granite memorial bench at the Wildcat Falls North Loop Trail. All costs will be covered by the Michael Loverme Foundation.

Mr. Cliff Loverme explained that the foundation is interested in placing a granite memorial bench similar to one that is already located at Wildcat Falls. The proposed bench will be five feet instead of four and Rivet funeral home would place the bench.

Chair Perkins questioned if the bench will be engraved. Mr. Loverme responded that the bench would have the MLF logo which is a dove with an olive branch in its mouth and would say “in loving memory of Michael Loverme”. The bench would also feature a quote similar to “the truth is without friends or family, we have nothing”. He stated this is the current plan, but the Conservation Commission could certainly approve the wording at a later date. Currently they are only looking for approval to place the bench.

Commissioner Rosati mentioned that when she first spoke to Mr. Loverme, she thought Mr. Loverme would need to go before the Town Council. However she had since found out that the Conservation Commission could approve the bench placement. Mr. Loverme mentioned that they would make deposits on the bench, provided it was approved. He noted that the MLF and Rivet were thinking of speaking with abutting land owners to see if they could move the bench to Wildcat Falls using a shorter route

Chair Perkins mentioned to Councilor Hunter that the precedence in the past was that these types of items did not have to go before Town Council. This is because they weren’t considered a material donation. Councilor Hunter asked Commissioner Rosati if she did confirm that this would not need to go through Town Council. Commissioner Rosati stated that she consulted old minutes from when the other granite bench was placed at the property. Councilor Hunter said he would confirm whether or not this item needed to be approved by the Town Council with the Town Manager.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO APPROVE THE REQUEST OF MR & MRS. LOVERME ON BEHALF OF THE MICHAEL LOVERME FOUNDATION TO PLACE AN ENGRAVED 5 FOOT LONG GRANITE MEMORIAL BENCH AT WILDCAT FALLS CONSERVATION AREA ALONG THE NORTH LOOP TRAIL OVERLOOKING THE SOUHEGAN RIVER, PENDING NOTICE THAT RIVET FUNERAL HOME CAN TRANSPORT BENCH SAFELY TO LOCATION. ALL EXPENSES WILL BE COVERED BY THE MICHAEL LOVERME FOUNDATION.

**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GLENN
MOTION CARRIED**

7-0-0

OLD BUSINESS -

-Request from Sklar Sub-Committee for the Conservation Commission to purchase from Lowe’s: 4 picnic tables, 4 (15’) chains, 2 packages of locks – two in each set for a total of 4, and a 5 gallon

container of Thompson's Water seal for a total cost not to exceed \$1,318.06. Picnic tables would be placed at Sklar Waterfront Park.

Commissioner Drouin showed a map of the area from the bridge on the Sklar property to the boat launch. He explained the map was created before the boulders at the property were moved. Three tables were drawn on the map he showed and he spoke of a few possible locations where tables could be placed. He mentioned that although the proposal says Lowe's, he found a chain at Harbor Freight tools which was only half the price of the chain available at Lowe's. He went over his request and stated that \$1,318.06 was more than enough and the supplies would probably cost less than \$1,000.00. He noted that there is currently a table at Sklar for about a month now and it has been used frequently.

Chair Perkins asked if the subcommittee discussed the benefit of picnic tables versus benches. Commissioner Drouin stated benches would be requested for other areas and pointed out that benches would be more difficult to move to higher ground in the event of flooding.

Commissioner Trippett stated the purpose of the picnic tables was for individuals and groups to relax, have lunches, dinners, and they were also a good place to hold tackle boxes. Chair Perkins stated they typically have installed benches at Conservation Commission properties. He was wondering if there was a reason picnic tables were preferred rather than benches.

Commissioner Drouin feels picnic tables would be more family oriented and more beneficial seeing that the area is quite heavily trafficked. He noted other Conservation properties are primarily used by individuals, and not groups. He noted that the subcommittee spoke about it and decided to lower the amount of picnic tables they were requesting in exchange for adding some benches. He stated they would request benches once the subcommittee discussed locations for the benches.

Commissioner Glenn mentioned her main concern was an increase in litter. Since Sklar is a Conservation property, and not a park, the Town will not be going to the area to collect trash. She mentioned a trash can was previously at Wildcat Falls but it used to overflow regularly and was eventually removed by the Town. She would rather see benches at the property, but was concerned there was already a picnic table there which was never approved by the Conservation Commission. She questioned how the current bench got onto the property.

Commissioner Drouin said it had just appeared. Commissioner Glenn mentioned seeing a post on Facebook that a subcommittee member donated it. Commissioner Drouin stated it was an anonymous donation. Commissioner Glenn questioned if someone had lied on the Facebook page and questioned whose Facebook page it was posted on. Commissioner Drouin stated he did not know.

Commissioner Rosati added that she would not be able to approve anything if anyone in the meeting was lying. She would be interested in who placed the picnic table. Commissioner Drouin questioned what she meant when she said she would not approve anything. Commissioner Rosati clarified she would not vote to approve anything unless she knew who put

the picnic table at the property. She continued that the picnic table should have been approved before it was placed. Currently, the picnic table could not be approved if she didn't know where it was from. Commissioner Drouin questioned if an anonymous donation needed to be approved. Commissioner Rosati remarked that it was not an anonymous donation. If it was left anonymously, the Department of Public Works should go and remove it because it had been abandoned and would be considered litter.

Commissioner Rosati reiterated it was important the Commission find out who left the bench so that it could be approved properly. Commissioner Drouin responded he did not know and questioned why the Commission needed to know who left the bench. Commissioner Glenn commented that proper procedures needed to be followed. She mentioned that it may be helpful to review the subcommittee charge which explains the Conservation Commission mission. She mentioned that the Commission is beholden to the Town Council and highlighted that the Commission and subcommittee both have responsibilities that need to be met. She mentioned Commissioner Drouin could try and change this, however the current procedures were already laid out. She felt concerned if Commission and subcommittee members didn't understand that items can't be placed at properties without approval.

Commissioner Drouin stated that the picnic table in question was meant to be placed on the agenda for consideration but he figured with Chapter 111 on the agenda, the agenda was already too full. He mentioned it would be listed on the next agenda. Chair Perkins commented that he felt the sentiment being expressed by some was that processes can't be circumvented. If they are, it can create division and confusion within the group.

Commissioner Drouin noted he understood this but said that then this process should have been followed for the thousands of dollars of boulders that had recently been donated for Sklar. Commissioner Glenn and Rosati clarified that the boulders had been discussed and approved by the Commission. They also highlighted that everyone knew where the materials came from originally. Commissioner Drouin noted a donation of boulders from David Webb had been approved, but that the Department of Public Works (DPW) donation was not. Chair Perkins stated the Commission actually helped orchestrate the donation from DPW. Commissioner Drouin remarked that the DPW actually just dumped the boulders when the road was being repaired.

Commissioner Rosati commented that she would not be voting on this item until more information was available. Councilor Hunter noted that if there was a motion, the Commission would vote on it as this was the procedure the Commission followed. Until a different procedure was decided upon, that they would continue to follow current procedures. He shared that he heard Commission members concerns and was struggling because he wasn't sure if everyone had been forthcoming.

He mentioned the anonymous donation of a picnic table and noted some Commission members may actually know where the item had come from. He felt all Commission members should be forthright because they were all here for the common purpose of caring for the Town. At the same time, he wanted to reiterate that everything was ruled by majority. Each member had their

own voice, but could only vote for themselves. He continued that if a motion and a second were both valid and voted on, then the Commission had to go proceed the way the vote turned out. He spoke of the picnic tables being brought up in the past but noted he had been hesitant to bring a motion to the floor because the public hadn't been notified about the possible appropriation of funds. Previously he felt this needed to be included on an agenda so that the public could comment. However, if there was a motion, it needed to be entertained and Commission procedures needed to be followed. He wanted to caution that all members should be forthright with each other and share any information they have.

Commissioner Kolb noted that she was reading the Statutory Commission for Conservation Commissions. She noted as she read through what should be done with Conservation properties, the question of the difference between a park and Conservation Commission kept rising. She appreciates the recreational value of the Conservation Commission properties and has enjoyed them herself many times.

She was also struggling because she was unsure if she was getting all of the available information because she has many groups and individuals to answer to for any decisions she makes. She would be more comfortable voting in favor of more picnic tables if she knew where the table currently at the property came from. She felt it would important to at some point clarify the difference between park lands and Conservation lands. She also commented it is important to her to always keep in mind the Commission's purpose when making decisions.

Councilor Hunter expressed interest in learning more about everyone's thought process as to the differences between park and Conservation lands. He mentioned he was struggling with having a picnic table at one Conservation property and then saying there can't be a picnic table at another property because we don't want one to be labeled as a park versus Conservation land. He also spoke of a recent visit to Sklar where he was able to witness many visitors using the property. He mentioned not having strong feelings either way as to whether a piece of Conservation land should solely be used for Conservation.

Commissioner Glenn mentioned she would be happy to send RSA 36-A to everyone. It explains the background of when the state started permitting Town's to have Conservation Commissions. It goes over their mission which is also posted on the Town website. According to this RSA, the mission is more focused on Conservation rather than recreation.

Chair Perkins was unsure of how he felt about Councilor Hunters question. He mentioned how a picnic table does not protect the watershed resources or wetands, and arguably may lead to more litter which could hurt these resources. On the flip side, the Commissions charter outlines an outreach function of building stakeholders. When individuals are able to utilize the property for things such a walking they become more informed and interested in what happens to the property. Chair Perkins mentioned possibly supporting the purchase of picnic tables seeing that everything had been researched and priced out properly. He questioned if Commissioner Drouin and Trippett would be open to the possibility of a compromise by requesting two tables vs. four. They could pilot having two picnic tables at the property and possibly purchase more if results were favorable. Chair Perkins noted if everything goes terribly wrong, the tables could be

donated to Wasserman or Watson Park. Commissioner Kolb felt this was a good idea but still wanted to know where the original picnic table came from. Commissioner Drouin responded that he had donated it, and frequently donated to town, but did not want to make a habit of bragging about it.

Commissioner Trippett asked if there was already a pilot program mentioning the current picnic table at Wildcat Falls and questioning if this led to an increase in trash. Commissioner Rosati responded that there was an increase in trash at the property but wasn't sure if it was due to the picnic table. She recalled that the picnic table had shown up out of nowhere, she assumed it was from DPW but that the trash can was taken away since it was overflowing and this has resulted in a trash problem at the Wildcat Falls. Commissioner Trippett questioned if she was thinking of removing the table and Commissioner Rosati responded yes. She highlighted that the table is badly in need of resurfacing. Commissioner Trippett questioned if she wanted the table removed for refinishing or because it was causing trash issues. Commissioner Rosati mentioned that over the past 5 or so years, she has only seen a handful of individuals use the table.

Chair Perkins mentioned that the worry over picnic tables was not unique to Sklar. The topic has come up before. It is a balancing act between whether or not this is a function of the Parks & Recreation Department or the Conservation Commission.

Commissioner Glenn mentioned there are many properties that fit both a Park and Conservation category. She feels that since there is a table at the property already it can serve as a test case. They can leave the table and see what happens. She would not vote to approve the purchase of any additional picnic tables currently. Commissioner Rosati remarked that she would vote to approve benches because these are more accessible for those with mobility challenges. She mentioned completing an informal poll on her Facebook page asking individuals she knows if they would be more comfortable at a bench or picnic table. She reiterated Sklar does not have trashcans so she is hesitant to add picnic tables where individuals can eat because she has observed through experience that this can lead to more trash. She mentioned that if individuals were picking up trash and then left the Conservation Commission, this could cause litter to pile up and her concern that picnic tables would not be an accessible option.

Commissioner Drouin remarked that there will be benches at the property included on the plan for next year. There is a plan to have handicap accessible picnic tables behind the kiosk and the Lions club as well as Commissioner Drouin are both interested in donating a bench and a picnic table or two. Commissioner Glenn clarified these donations would be brought before the Conservation Commission for approval. Commissioner Drouin responded yes, they would. He added that having more tables would benefit the property because there would be more eyes and potential property destruction could be avoided.

Commissioner Drouin mentioned that he and Vice-Chair Boisvert were meeting with the Town Manager and Director of Community Development to discuss enforcement actions. He said historically Police have gone done and fined those breaking laws, however the overall problem doesn't seem to ever get resolved. They hoped the meeting would result in a zero-tolerance policy at the property.

Councilor Hunter circled back to Chair Perkins point. He said he would be inclined to go with this proposal because for several meetings they have advised Commissioner Drouin and Trippett to price everything out and then present the proposal to the rest of the group for consideration. He credited their work on this so far. He favors the idea of a pilot program with a reduced number of tables so data on table usage can be collected.

Chair Perkins shared he would also be open to a reduced number of tables. He wished there had been more transparency at the beginning of the conversation, but appreciated all the work the subcommittee had put into this proposal so far. Councilor Hunter added that he hopes before another proposal for Sklar is brought up, the approved Sklar plan is consulted to make sure any future expenditures support the plan.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DROUIN TO PURCHASE TWO (2) WOODEN PICNIC TABLES (@\$149.00 EACH), PLUS 1 (2PACK) LOCKS @\$29.68, PLUS 2 (15 FOOT) CHAINS @75.00 EACH PLUS 1 GALLON TUB OF THOMPSON'S WATERSEAL @APPROXIMATELY \$20, FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$700 FROM FUND 53. PICNIC TABLES TO BE PLACED AT SKLAR WATERFRONT PARK:

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TRIPPETT

MOTION PASSED

5-1-1

ABSTAINED: COMMISSIONER ROSATI

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Subcommittee Updates**

Sklar Subcommittee – There has been a lot of trash at Sklar. A discussion regarding enforcement actions at Sklar will be held with the Town Manager and Community Development Director. Additionally, regular meeting will now be held monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. The subcommittee would like permission to go before the Town Council to request the DPW to regrade the road leading to the property. Chair Perkins noted this may be an expensive project and there may be other priorities that would be less costly to complete at this time.

Chair Perkins mentioned this is something Commissioner Drouin could do as a concerned citizen but the Conservation Commission would want to establish a list of priorities before requesting this type of project as there are some other pressing concerns. Commissioner Drouin noted the subcommittee is also interested in fixing the drainage in the parking area and there is an issue with the Eagle Bluff trail flooding. Commissioner Glenn mentioned perhaps rerouting trails to avoid issues and stated this had previously been done at other properties to alleviate flooding concerns.

Wildcat Falls Subcommittee – Last meeting was held on April 12, 2022. The Michael Loverme foundation did some cleanup at the property on April 24, 2022. The subcommittee determined the bridge on the North Loop trail will eventually need to be replaced despite patching efforts.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO APPROVE THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES DATED APRIL 4, 2022, WITH CHANGES AS FOLLOWS:

Page 6, line 215 change “of” to “the”

Page 9, line 338 input the Sklar subcommittee gave did not support any specific plans

Page 13, line 500 add an “s” after seedlings

Page 13, line 500 take out “they will be using”

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KOLB APPROVED 7-0-0

PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –

Commissioner Kolb asked about the May 7, 2022 Seedling giveaway. This event is new to her so she questioned who she should connect with to volunteer at the event.

Chair Perkins and Commissioner Perry will arrive at the event early to set up. Commissioner Kolb requested an email be sent to the Commission with more information. Chair Perkins mentioned it is a great event which is usually well attended.

Commissioner Rosati requested an inventory of which seedlings they got so she can make a list with some information such as how tall the various plants grow and other pertinent information.

Commissioner Drouin mentioned he was made aware that the Town of Amherst had an Earth day event. He questioned if this could be done in the future. He also shared that the Hike club had their first hike on Sunday April 24, 2022 at Wildcat Falls and seven people attended. The next hike will be at Sklar on May 8, 2022 at 11:00am and a second hike at 2:00pm.

Commissioner Trippett noted boulders were moved at Sklar but that all access, even walking, had been blocked to trailheads. All six entrances were inaccessible to him. He believes the DPW is going to clear a path in the center of the trails so individuals walking don't have to walk through the woods to access trailheads. He appreciates everyone at Town who has been working to rectify this as quickly as possible including Councilor Hunter and Vice-Chair Boisvert.

Councilor Hunter shared he spoke with the Town Manager who is coordinating with DPW to make gaps in the boulders so pedestrians have better access, but cars are still blocked.

ADJOURNMENT-

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GLENN TO ADJOURN

SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KOLB

APPROVED 7-0-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:10 P.M.

Submitted by Stefanie Brinn