



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Town Hall - Lower level - East Wing

Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday April 4, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Steven Perkins, Chair, presided:

Members of the Commission Present:

Michael Boisvert, Vice Chair
Gina Rosati, Secretary
Gage Perry
Eric Starr
Cindy Glenn
Michael Drouin, Alternate Member
Ellen Kolb, Alternate Member
Councilor Andy Hunter

Members of the Commission Absent:

David Trippett, Alternate Member

Also Participating:

Meera Cousens, Civil Design Consultants Inc.
Marc Gagnon – HHNP Subcommittee Chair

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

APPOINTMENTS – None

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS

Merrimack Smiles (applicant) and SIAM04 Realty LLC (owner) – Review for acceptance and consideration of final approval for a site plan to raze an existing building and construct a 4,500 square foot dental office. The parcel is located at 75 DW Highway in the I-1 (Industrial) and Aquifer Conservation Districts. Tax Map 2D, Lot 028.

Meera Cousens presented the project, giving a brief history and explanation of the plan for the property at 75 Daniel Webster Highway. Ms. Cousens explained that the highest elevation on the lot was 170 feet in the northwestern corner of the property while the lowest elevation was 141 feet at the northern corner of the lot. She continued to state that currently, there are not any onsite storm water controls. Without treatment, runoff from a portion of the driveway entrance sheet flows towards Daniel Webster Highway and runoff from the rest of the site flows in a Northerly direction. Additionally, there are not any wetlands on the property.

The applicant is looking to raze the existing building and construct a 4,500 square foot one story dental office. They plan to construct a driveway, update parking, utilities and landscaping. In terms of storm water, they are proposing to create a highpoint along the property line so runoff from the parking lot would sheet flow to an infiltration basin. Any runoff from the roof area would be piped and discharged into the infiltration basin.

Ms. Cousens continued that this proposal would reduce peak flow discharge towards Daniel Webster Highway by 100% with an average of a 30% reduction of off-site peak discharge. There will be a total net decrease of impervious area in post development by 14,000 square feet.

Vice- Chair Boisvert questioned the current truck storage situation on the property and whether or not this would continue with the new owner. Ms. Cousens responded no, the trucks would need to be removed. She explained that the current owner had an agreement with the abutting property to store tractor trailers on site, but that the owners of these items would need to move them after the property changed hands.

Commissioner Perry stated that as he recalled, the Conservation Commission approved the placement of tractor trailers on the 75 Daniel Webster Highway property with a verbal agreement and not a formal, signed, agreement. He questioned if the space where the tractor trailers currently are would be a retention pond. Mrs. Cousens answered yes, this proposal would turn that space into an infiltration pond.

Chair Perkins mentioned going through the Drainage report and noted that the post-development CFS runoff numbers compared to pre-development numbers were lower in all cases.

Recommendations made by the Conservation Commission are as follows:

1. Green Snow-Pro certified contractors to be utilized for snow removal/ice treatment. The site plan did reference a designated area for snow storage but that area was not actually identified on the printed plans.
2. Only non-invasive plants may be planted.
3. If necessary, straw will be used, not hay.
4. Only low phosphate, slow release nitrogen fertilizers shall be used. While not required, it is recommended that the applicant utilize a soil testing facility to determine what levels and application rates are necessary prior to applying any fertilizers to the site.

Chair Perkins mentioned that the plans indicated that there would be on site snow storage, but the storage area was not identified on the plans. Ms. Cousens responded that Chair Perkins was correct, the snow storage area was not shown on the plans. She would ensure the snow storage area was indicated on revised plans. She anticipated having to provide revised plans to address comments from the Community Development Department.

Commissioner Perry asked if Ms. Cousens could point out the proposed site for snow storage. Ms. Cousens showed the proposed snow storage and mentioned they did not want to store snow in the infiltration basin. The discussion continued touching on a no parking area at the top right corner of the property to be used for emergency site access as well as questions regarding the placement of dumpsters on the property.

Chair Perkins stated that the Conservation Commission would send a letter with their recommendations to the Planning Board.

NEW BUSINESS

- **HHNP Lamination Request**

Commissioner Perry commented it is a good idea to use Lexan GP Polycarbonate instead of Plexiglass because it is a stronger material.

Marc Gagnon noted that there are four grades of materials sold in the requested size of 4X8 with the most expensive option being \$239.00. He mentioned that one full sheet would be required because of the size of the kiosks. He noted there was an option available for less than \$174.00, however it was a less durable material made of acrylic polycarbonate.

Commissioner Perry asked if Home Depot would cut the material and Mr. Gagnon responded that Home Depot does not cut the material in the store, he would need to cut it himself. Commissioner Rosati asked if Mr. Gagnon priced out Lexan material from Marvel Glass. He responded that he had not. He went to Reed's Ferry Market however they did not have a piece of material in stock that was large enough. Commissioner Rosati stated, it can be expensive, but Marvel stocks Lexan material and would cut it. Mr. Gagnon said he felt confident cutting it.

Brief discussion regarding the best method for cutting Lexan GP Polycarbonate and which kiosks the new signage would be placed at followed.

Commissioner Perry questioned the process of getting payment for an invoice. Mr. Gagnon commented there was a specific process in place for these types of requests. He continued that he would wait until everything was paid for before moving forward with picking the material up.

Councilor Hunter requested that in the future, more detail be provided on the agenda for items requesting funding. This would provide residents a chance to share concerns, if they had any.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER STARR TO APPROVE \$174.00 FOR MARC GAGNON OF THE HHNP SUB-COMMITTEE TO PURCHASE A 48" X 96" X 3/16" SHEET OF LEXAN GP POLYCARBONATE FOR THE HHNP KIOSK, FROM FUND 53.

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PERRY

MOTION CARRIED

7-0-0

Mr. Gagnon questioned if there was anything else for him to cover as he noticed the lamination request on the agenda. He continued that he was unsure if there was a cost associated with lamination. Commissioner Rosati stated that Christine Nazaka from the Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP) subcommittee had requested laminated QR codes to be placed at HHNP. Commissioner Rosati wasn't sure if a lamination machine was available at Town Hall, but noted that there was one at the middle school.

Commissioner Starr stated he had QR codes for HHNP. Mr. Gagnon explained that the hope was to place QR codes in various spots around HHNP and have one central sign to guide individuals through the property.

Commissioner Perry mentioned that there had been some maps as well as QR codes printed by Papergraphics. Mr. Gagnon responded that he had not seen them. Commissioner Perry noted that Papergraphics made printouts that were just QR codes on the same foam core that the large maps at the kiosks were printed on.

A brief discussion regarding the next steps and how the check would be cut to Home Depot for the materials followed. Once a check is submitted to Home Depot by the Town and Mr. Gagnon knows it's paid for, he will pick up the materials.

OLD BUSINESS

-Proposal to move Conservation Commission meeting dates to 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month and location to Matthew Thornton Room.

Chair Perkins reiterated from previous conversations that the purpose of the proposed Conservation Commission meeting schedule change was to allow for better audio/visual support and would be more conducive when minutes for the Commission were taken.

Chair Perkins continued to ask what day the public hearing for Chapter 111 would be posted. Commissioner Rosati and Chair Perkins stated that they thought the notice had been posted for the April 25 meeting since the posting requirement for a notice was 21 days in advance of a public hearing. Chair Perkins stated that he didn't think the meeting schedule was an item that needed to be voted on, but that there needed to be a consensus among Commission members. Effective for the next meeting, the Conservation Commission will meet on to the 2nd and 4th Monday's of the month. The amended schedule will be posted on the Town's website.

-Review discussion with NH Fish & Game regarding a boat ramp at Sklar

The Conservation Commission completed a site visit at the Sklar property on March 29, 2022. The purpose of the site visit was to meet with Ray Green (NH Fish & Game Vice-Chair and Commissioner Hillsborough County) and Garret Graaskamp (Coordinator, Statewide Boat Ramp Access Program) to address possible options and get feedback regarding the possibility of a boat ramp at the property. Chair Perkins stated that NH Fish & Game had accessed the site before and was very familiar with it.

Mr. Green was not in attendance. Mr. Graaskamp shared that the Sklar site had access to a medium sized body of water, if you count the square footage from the rapids in Nashua up to the dam. Although it is a significant body of water with no current boat ramp access, there are significant limitations due to the fact there is not a way to access the site. Considering that the grant program is funded by the registration of power boats, it may not be the most appropriate place for a boat ramp if it can only accommodate canoes, kayaks, and small row boats but not power boats.

There is a gentleman who owns land adjacent to the site, Mr. Worster, who attended the site visit. He spoke about his dissatisfaction with previous work done at the site. Chair Perkins explained that Mr. Worster's concerns were due to a previous agreement to open a breach in his berm and use it for access to the Sklar site, however the work wasn't done as well as it could have been.

NH Fish & Game was not interested in making an investment in a ramp at this site unless there were to be a different access point to the property. Chair Perkins stated that the next step at this time would be to develop a relationship with the abutting resident to the site. This could create a possibility in the future of an easement for site access or the purchase and subdivision of a piece of the residents land to be used for site access. The discussion continued, briefly touching on how the only other access to the site was from the railroad crossing and how Pan Am may be in the process of selling some land nearby the site.

Chair Perkins spoke of the March 29, 2022 site visit explaining how the Director of Public Works, Kyle Fox, asked Garret Graaskamp if there were strings attached if the site got approved for a boat ramp grant. Garret Graaskamp replied that there would be conditions to meet if the grant was approved, there are federal matching funds that go along with these sorts of projects. Responsibility to govern the site would then fall on the Town. The Town ran into a similar issue with Watson Park recently. This change would limit the Conservation Commission's control of the ramp and access to it. The Commission may no longer have any say. For example, they would no longer have the authority to close the site for a work day.

Vice- Chair Boisvert spoke of the process to get a dredge and fill permit. He mentioned that NH Fish & Game indicated that getting a permit can be a one-time deal. He pointed out that if the Conservation Commission wants to do a project of this magnitude, they should carefully consider the decision. He stated that The NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) is most likely going to issue one permit, but may not be keen on the idea of granting the same permit five years down the road.

Chair Perkins noted that Vice-Chair Boisvert brought up a good point which was tied to water concerns. NH Fish & Game said that ideally, water depth at the end of the ramp is 3 to 4 feet, with 2 feet as an absolute minimum. At the Sklar site, the ramp would be on the shallow side of the water. This means they run the risk of sediment collecting at the site. While NH DES will issue a permit to dredge the site and build a boat ramp, they will not issue a permit to re-dredge if sediment collects in excess there.

Commissioner Glenn questioned if individuals using canoes and kayaks at the site truly needed to get their vehicle right down to the water. She felt it was beneficial that they had considered their options, but it didn't seem like there was a focus on the actual property. She had concerns about the use of motorboats and continued to point out that one of the benefits when the Conservation Commission bought the property was that it was not easy to access. She would rather keep the traffic to a minimum. She also shared concerns about the Conservation Commission getting a dredge permit. Chair Perkins clarified that NH Fish & Game would get the permits for them, however they were not interested in the site unless there was improved access to it.

Commissioner Perry stated that even if the boat ramp were big enough, access to the site is tough. This project could easily become one that snowballs into other, large projects quickly. Commissioner Rosati commented that in her opinion it would not be worthwhile to invest in a ramp at the location as the site could not safely accommodate enough boats to justify the project. She also pointed out that the use of motorized boats at the site could have negative effects on the Conservation of the property.

Chair Perkins briefly explained NH Fish & Game's typical ramp construction process and noted that the site would not be conducive to a temporary ramp because of the strong currents. Commissioner Rosati added that there is a safe, large, boat ramp with easy access and adequate parking at Greeley Street, which is not far from Sklar.

-Review Sklar presentation

Commissioner Drouin explained the 10 year plan that the Sklar subcommittee had recently worked on, briefly touching on the history of the site. He shared that currently, the property is used for dog walking, hiking, mountain biking, scuba diving, and there is a Flying Club for Remote Controlled planes. He noted that the entrance to the property is tough to access. He continued on to state that the Town Manager, Paul Micali said the plan was to possibly expand the entrance to the property and make some upgrades provided that the proposed commuter trail

ended up coming through Merrimack. Estimates from the Department of Public Works for improvements to the existing turn in were around \$75,000.

Commissioner Drouin mentioned one area just before the bridge that was shown as a parking area on the Sklar plan, and noted the plan was to re-vegetate this area. Vice-Chair Boisvert questioned if by the river, there will be one parking area or two. Commissioner Drouin responded he was unsure but would clarify and share when he had more information. He then responded there was only supposed to be one parking spot near the river, the parking lot that currently exists, which is the Suburban Trail parking lot.

The Sklar subcommittee would like to improve the visual appeal of the property. Commissioner Perry questioned if anyone has walked the trails and Commissioner Drouin responded that they were waiting until they have a solid idea of which trails would be permanent. Commissioner Perry clarified that his suggestion was to use a mobile device with GPS and walk the trails in order to create an official map including GIS and GPS locations. Commissioner Starr said he could assist with this.

Chair Perkins steered the discussion towards five items of focus. Two were vehicle use and boulder placement. He mentioned the subcommittee had made three plans, however there was not yet consensus on where the boulders should be placed. Another focus area was the clearing of trees at the Sklar property. Commissioner Drouin commented that a police report was filed by Commissioner Trippett when he discovered trees were being cut at the property by individuals who stated they were getting wood for a bonfire. Commissioner Perry noted the complaint also had to be brought to the attention of Community Development Director Tim Thompson.

Chair Perkins brought up the Flying Eagles club and how it would be prudent to make a decision regarding whether or not they could clear trees on Sklar property. They currently have access to cut on Town property, but have asked the Conservation Commission for approval to remove some trees on the Southern notch of the property. Vice-Chair Boisvert mentioned that some trees in this area were cut already which Chair Perkins confirmed that this was correct. Chair Perkins noted the Flying Eagles have been great neighbors however, the trees on site did not look like they were in great shape currently. Vice-Chair Boisvert responded that he thought they had decided tree clearing on the South side of the property would not be permitted any longer.

Councilor Hunter shared that the Flying Eagles had received Town Council approval to clear trees. Chair Perkins reiterated that what they needed to decide was if clearing would be allowed on the immediate right after entering the Sklar property. These trees border the Flying Eagles runway and are quite tall. Chair Perkins met with the president of Flying Eagles and let them know they could not do any tree clearing on Sklar property until the Conservation Commission had discussed it and come to a decision. Since the deed mentions no clearing should take place on the South side of the road at the Sklar property, there didn't need to be a motion.

Commissioner Rosati mentioned it would probably be helpful to define what needs to be cut as

the cutting that had already taken place was not well planned. Chair Perkins to let the Flying Eagles know why the Conservation Commission is uncomfortable with more tree clearing on the South side of the road. Commissioner Drouin commented that the deed stated that no individual or commercial activities on the property except necessary forestry to maintain the area or reduce potential for forest fires. Commissioner Rosati asked who is determining what work is necessary and Chair Perkins noted that he felt the Commission would be agreeing to what was necessary. Commissioner Perry said this part of the deed being referenced was spelling out the Timber Plan, not the forestry plan. Commissioner Rosati questioned where the forestry plan was and Commissioner Perry shared there is not currently a forestry plan.

Commissioner Rosati continued that the subcommittee is not a professional tree clearing service so perhaps they should invite the UNH Cooperative to the property for a site walk. Commissioner Perry commented they did have a forester contact at Baystate whom they could call to get a forestry plan created. Commissioner Rosati stated she felt it would be helpful to set up a site visit, just like they did for the boat ramp. Commissioner Perry mentioned it would be beneficial to identify the species of trees, types of tree settlements, and what should be done with them long term.

Commissioner Drouin briefly spoke of a dramatic decrease in the amount of the off-roading at Sklar. The subcommittee will move some boulders that the Department of Public Works dropped off for them. The hope is to block the rest of the off-roading taking place. The subcommittee will be moving two rocks to block the left side of the boat launch where there is currently access to a path which is a strip of Town land. Commissioner Perry questioned if the Town is ok with this boulder placement. Vice-Chair Boisvert stated they hadn't been approached by the Town and Commissioner Perry clarified it is Town owned land so while it may be a nice thing to do, someone would need to contact the Town Manager, Paul Micali to see if this was an issue that needed to go before the Town Council.

Commissioner Drouin stated that there was a vote taken by the subcommittee in November 2021 to move the rocks to the location of a brush pile at Sklar. The subcommittee felt this was the best spot because it would allow them to use less boulders to accomplish their plan. Vice-Chair Boisvert clarified that the vote was to move boulders to stop motor vehicle access during the interim before a plan was created. Now that plans had been created, they can still place the boulders there, but they may not need them in that location anymore.

Chair Perkins noted the placement of the boulders was important – should the boulders be placed immediately South of the boat ramp to prevent motor vehicle access or be placed elsewhere. Vice-Chair Boisvert mentioned that the parking area at Sklar is enormous as it was graded. The plan Vice-Chair Boisvert proposes is Plan #2 which would block off just South of the boat ramp using approximately three boulders. This plan would still allow cars to park and unload things such as their kayaks, to place approximately three boulders along the River on the road to block a circular driving pattern up to the parking lot. At the end of the upper large parking lot, this plan

proposes to use some boulders to block the hill going down to the lower parking lot in which case the boulders in the brush pile may no longer be needed. This plan would keep cars in the parking lot and stop them from parking and driving along the river and up into the parking lot which is what Plan #1 is.

Commissioner Drouin commented that the Sklar subcommittee supports Plan #1 and shared that it has been altered according to the subcommittees input. Vice-Chair Boisvert rebutted that the input the Sklar subcommittee gave did not support any specific plan. Commissioner Drouin acknowledged that the Sklar subcommittee did not officially vote on any of the plans yet. Chair Perkins stated the resources were ready, a decision just needed to be made.

Commissioner Drouin stated that the subcommittee is meeting on April 9, 2022 to move the boulders and cut vines that have been encroaching on the road at Sklar. The only one actually moving boulders will be Mark Twardoski from the Sklar Subcommittee as he has a machine.

Vice-Chair Boisvert shared that if one of the plans is not approved tonight, then the abuse by motor vehicles will continue at the property. Commissioner Glenn asked if a circular parking and travel pattern was already taking place at Sklar to which Commissioner Drouin remarked that it had been going on for decades. Commissioner Perry commented that it had not been going on for decades as the area was not cleared out as a circular driveway. It has only followed a circular path in the last few years. Commissioner Glenn stated she agreed that this circular access needed to be cut off.

Chair Perkins stated that the deed is quite clear in saying that no motor vehicle access was to be authorized on the property in order to protect the Merrimack River. Currently, motor vehicle access at the site is the biggest issue. Commissioner Drouin highlighted that the use of motor vehicles has created significant damage which includes flooding on trails. It doesn't matter to him where the boulders go, but it is important to place them somewhere. He felt it may be best to place them where the brush is to prevent the creation of new trails.

Councilor Hunter questioned if the Sklar plans were going to be reviewed and voted on by the subcommittee and if the plans were for the subcommittee or for the Conservation Commission. Commissioner Perry answered that the Conservation Commission owns this property so they need to vote on these plans. He continued that the Conservation Commission votes on improvements and changes to parcels they own and that they assume all liability for any work done.

There was also discussion about Plan #3, which did not seem to be suitable options. Plan #3 would require materials and plan four would create a one-way. The main concern was to discourage driving down near the Merrimack River as many vehicles would get stuck in the soft silt.

Councilor Hunter mentioned that he would like to see the approved Sklar plan used as a guideline when the subcommittee comes before the Commission in the future with funding requests. This would assist in making sure requests support the subcommittees long range goals. He also suggested updating the plans introduction to state that the subcommittee would take a vote of the item. If the subcommittee voted to approve, then the subcommittee's ex-officio member would bring it to the Conservation Commission for consideration.

Discussion covered duties of an ex-officio subcommittee member. There was one question regarding whether or not ex-officio members had veto power or not and whether ex-officio members could prevent motions from being brought up to the Conservation Commission. Vice-Chair Boisvert and Commissioner Perry explained ex-officio members do not have veto power and can't stop anything from being brought up for a motion. Ex-officio members are only one voice, the group as a whole makes the decision based on the results of a motion.

Commissioner Drouin mentioned invasive plants on the Sklar property. The discussion then returned to which Sklar plan the Conservation Commission wanted to accept. Councilor Hunter asked for clarification on Plan #2. He stated the original drawing showed the barrier of boulders in a North/South line but Plan #2, as revised, shows the boulders going in an East to West direction which is the most accurate depiction of the proposed boulder placement. Commissioner Perry asked if the layout plan would need to go before the Town Council for a vote to which Councilor Hunter responded that Town Manager Paul Micali would let them know if there was a reason the plan needed to be approved by the Town Council.

Commissioner Starr requested clarification regarding whether the subcommittee preferred a specific plan. Commissioner Drouin stated that Plan #1 was created primarily from the subcommittees input. Vice-Chair Boisvert clarified that Plan #1 was only truly created from two subcommittee members input. Chair Perkins added that he got the sense that there is a general appreciation that the Conservation Commission is doing their best to get the plans that work best for property from an environmental perspective while staying within the guidelines of the Sklar property deed.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR BOISVERT TO ACCEPT SKLAR LAYOUT PLAN 2, TO BE REVISED WITH BOULDERS MOVED FROM EXISTING NORTH/SOUTH TO PREFERRED EAST/WEST AT END OF THE PARKING LOT BY RIVER, AND OTHER BOULDERS TO BLOCK SOUTH RAMP ONTO TOWN PROPERTY BY THE BOAT RAMP TO BE APPROVED BY TOWN MANAGER.

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GLENN

MOTION CARRIED

7-0-0

-Review Sklar Presentation

Commissioner Drouin referenced section B of the Sklar deed mentioning how it spoke of the protection of biological habitats, communities, and ecosystems of the property as an obligation of the Conservation Commission. He continued to explain that invasive species are not natural to the area and are destroying the natural ecosystem and need to be removed. He would like to get the purchase of a brush hog approved to remove invasive plants, specifically Burning Bush. Currently, there is not a plan for the Oriental Bittersweet because there is too much of it.

Chair Perkins noted that there are invasive plant species on every Conservation property. He would like to hear from an expert on the best time of year to work on controlling and eliminating invasive plants. Commissioner Drouin felt spring was the best time of year for Burning Bush control as it doesn't sprout berries until fall. If berries are left, the plant can then reseed. Discussion covered whether or not proper control and elimination methods for Burning Bush and Oriental Bittersweet were researched and if they would be followed.

Commissioner Drouin stated that in May he would make a formal request for a brush hog. He explained that it is similar to a walk behind lawn-mower but meant for brush. He would only be requesting this item because it would make quick work of the invasive plants which are clustered together. Chair Perkins stated he was concerned that Conservation Commission members were not necessarily trained or insured to use this equipment. Commissioner Perry suggested talking with the Department of Public Works to see if they had any equipment that could be borrowed. Commissioner Drouin added that the Burning Bush infestation is on the right side of the road, but it starting to spread. He shared it's currently very easy to identify because its leaves have just started growing.

The conversation moved on to Commissioner Drouin speaking about a previous request for picnic tables and benches. When a motion at a previous meeting had been made, it didn't receive a second, so no further steps were taken. Commissioner Glenn remarked that the motion hadn't received a second because there wasn't a plan for Sklar at the time. Commissioner Drouin stated that since there is now a plan, the subcommittee would like to request four picnic tables. He did some price checking and found the following:

- 4 Picnic Tables. Lowe's sold tables with pressure treated legs for \$149.00 each. Delivery costs an additional \$79.00

- 4 (15) ft. chains to secure the tables for \$75.00 each.

- 3 (2-packs) of locks for a total of 6 locks. Each pack is \$29.68

- Thompson's water seal 5 gallon tub for \$89.98.

According to Commissioner Drouin, the total of this project would come out to \$1,318.06.

(*The total for all requested materials comes out to \$1,154.02.)

Commissioner Rosati stated this item would have to be added to a future agenda to allow for public comment. Commissioner Glenn commented that she would like to know where the tables would be located. There was also discussion of trash collection and whether or not the Department of Public Works would collect trash from Sklar. Commissioner Rosati stated trash would not be removed by the DPW. There was some concern from Commission members regarding the increase in trash picnic tables could potentially lead to.

Commissioner Glenn commented that she feels they are still looking at small pieces, rather than the overall plan and Conservation efforts for the Sklar property. Commissioner Drouin stated that the Conservation Commission should not have allowed the park to be named “Sklar Waterfront Park”. He referenced the deed saying, it does allow for park uses. Discussion resulted in item being placed on the agenda for discussion and a vote at the next meeting.

Commissioner Drouin spoke of the Sklar subcommittee seeking approval from the Conservation Commission for fundraising as one of the other subcommittees currently has permission to hold fundraisers. Other Commission members were unaware of any other subcommittees holding fundraisers. Commissioner Perry shared that HHNP has its own secondary fund which was created when the land was purchased. This was so that residents could donate money which would go into a Town account and increase the value of the property. If residents want to donate to Town or the Conservation Commission fund, it would be prudent to check with the Town Manager to learn about the specifics.

Commissioner Drouin stated that the subcommittee understood the Conservation Commission may not want to spend Conservation funds on picnic tables, if the Sklar subcommittee had a fundraiser, this money could be used for picnic tables. Chair Perkins commented it wasn’t necessarily that the Commission didn’t want to buy tables, but by process they could not take a vote currently since it hadn’t been included on the agenda.

The discussion touched on how a donation fund would be set-up and managed. Commissioner Glenn mentioned she is not opposed to spending money on the Conservation properties but noted that subcommittee members are volunteers, while the Town has paid employees to care for places such as Watson Park. She has concerns with items like picnic tables that could generate trash which may be too much for volunteers to keep up with.

Commissioner Drouin stated the proposed picnic tables would be temporary to see if they would be a good option for the property. This would give the Commission information about whether or not picnic tables were a viable option for the property.

There is a large tree overlooking the boat ramp at Sklar, Commissioner Drouin questioned if they wanted this tree removed. Chair Perkins noted that the tree seemed to be in good health and was providing a habitat. Vice-Chair Boisvert and Commissioner Rosati would be interested in having

an arborist look at it. Commissioner Drouin felt the Town Attorney should take a look at the tree as he felt it was a liability. Commissioner Rosati questioned if the Town Attorney was an arborist and why this specific tree was any more of a liability than other trees on the property.

Chair Perkins to contact an arborist from Baystate or UNH Cooperative for a consultation regarding the tree overhanging the boat ramp parking lot.

-2022 Seedling Giveaway

Chair Perkins stated they haven't gotten confirmation to pick-up the seedlings yet. The seedling giveaway will take place on May 7, 2022. They typically have many volunteers to help giveaway the seedlings, but asked that any members who were available volunteer for the event.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Subcommittee Updates**

- Wildcat Falls subcommittee will be meeting on April 12, 2022 at 6:30 Memorial Room
- Sklar subcommittee will have a work day on April 9, 2022 at 8:00am

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO APPROVE THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES DATED MARCH 7, 2022, WITH CHANGES AS FOLLOWS.

Page 4, line 155, change "conservations" to "conversations"

Page 7, line 270, remove the word "of" before closing

**MOTION SECOND BY CHAIR PERKINS
APPROVED 7-0-0**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO APPROVE THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES DATED MARCH 29, 2022, WITH CHANGES AS FOLLOWS:

Page 1, Line 26, Change Flying Eagles RC Club to Representative of Abutter

Page 22, Lines 47, 48, 49 – Replace sentence that's in all caps to Once Conservation Commission takes money from Fish & Game for a boating ramp, we incur legal obligations that limit our control of that ramp and access to it

Page 2, Line 56, Replace Worcester with Worster.

**MOTION SECOND BY CHAIR PERKINS
APPROVED 7-0-0**

PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –

Commissioner Perry shared that he has used Grater Woods trails recently and they look good. There has been some blow down, but many people are just pushing this off the trail, so trails are still firm. There is work to be done on the edge of the Red Maple Trail. There is a gully that is supposed to be diverting water however, it is full of leaves. Maintenance will be taking place soon as there has been a lot of tree growth.

Commissioner Kolb commented that there has been an increase in Beaver activity at Lastowka Pond at HHNP. She also mentioned that the trail marker on the Eastern side of the pond has leaves growing over it that would need to be cut away.

Commissioner Starr plans to visit Sklar before the Conservation Commissions next meeting to map trails and identify some plants such as flora and fauna. He also will check on the erosion at Wildcat Falls in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Drouin stated he feels there has been some unprofessional behavior at Conservation Commission meetings. He feels they need to stick to business while at meetings.

Commissioner Rosati questioned if Commissioner Starr will continue as a member of the HHNP subcommittee when his term expires this summer. He responded that he will most likely not continue with HHNP in the next year as he is not sure how much longer he will live in Merrimack. Commissioner Rosati also asked Commissioner Kolb if she would like Mrs. Ostman to take some HHNP maps to fill the kiosk. Commissioner Kolb stated that Mrs. Ostman is welcome to fill the kiosk maps, and she will communicate directly with Mrs. Ostman.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PERRY TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI
APPROVED 7-0-0**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:45 P.M.

Submitted by Stefanie Brinn