



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, AUGUST 22, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER -

A Meeting of the Conservation Commission was called to order on Monday August 22, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Memorial Room.

Steve Perkins, Chair, presided:

Members of the Commission Present:

Michael Drouin, Alternate Member
Cynthia Glenn
Andy Hunter
Ellen Kolb
David Trippett, Alternate Member

Members of the Commission Absent:

Michael Boisvert
Gage Perry
Eric Starr
Gina Rosati, Alternate Member

Chair Perkins designated Commission Drouin to sit in for Commissioner Boisvert and Commissioner Trippett to sit in for Commissioner Perry.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

NEW BUSINESS -

- **Vote to remove Sklar Subcommittee Alternate member Nicole Morning-Christman**
Chair Perkins if anyone would like to make a motion. Motion by Commissioner Drouin to remove Nicole Morning-Christman from Sklar Subcommittee. Councilor Hunter questioned if there was a reason for this vote. Chair Perkins and Commissioner Drouin explained it was due to nonattendance and that they had received feedback that there should have been a vote to remove Mrs. Morning-Christman before voting in a new alternate member.

Councilor Hunter also questioned if the nonattendance was well documented through meeting minutes to which Commissioner Drouin responded that it was. Commissioner Drouin continued on to state that she had received Subcommittee emails up to the most recent

meeting, but has not responded to his attempts to contact her. Councilor Hunter questioned how many meetings in a row a subcommittee member had to miss in order to be removed. Commissioner Glenn noted she did not believe there was a standard. Councilor Hunter continued on the question if there was not a standard, how many meetings had this member been absent from the subcommittee. Commissioner Drouin responded the member had been absent from meetings February 2022. Chair Perkins noted that when new subcommittee members are being voted on, their names should appear on the agenda noting this could help save time in the appointment process. Councilor Hunter stated he asked because he wanted to ensure that if someone was being removed from a subcommittee they volunteered to be on in town, the correct steps were being followed.

Motion Seconded by **Commissioner Trippett**

Motion Carried

6-0-0.

- **Creation of Sklar parcel map as requested by Katie Little of Sklar subcommittee, and NRPC mapping**

Chair Perkins asked if Commissioner Drouin wanted to speak about the request for the creation of a parcel map of Sklar. Commissioner Drouin noted he wasn't familiar with CAD files so he had asked Chair Perkins. Chair Perkins noted that since Chapter 111 was updated, he was aware that parcel maps would need to be updated as some trail restrictions have changed. There are currently two unmapped flagship parcels, Sklar and Field Farms.

At a previous meeting, going back to the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) was discussed. The Commission will need to let NRPC know what updates they would like made to existing maps to reflect new Chapter 111 restrictions and re-routed or adjusted trails and to get Sklar mapped. Chair Perkins contacted the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) for a quote on mapping. He expects to have a quote before MCC's next meeting and he will place it on the agenda at that time for a vote on possible funds to update maps. Chair Perkins asked where there is a need for NRPC to go out and GPS map parcels, noting that Sklar would be one. For existing maps, NRPC wouldn't have to go over every trail. Commissioner Glenn mentioned that Subcommittees previously received large copies of maps for their review, but wasn't sure if review had ever taken place. Chair Perkins and Commissioner Glenn both recommended that subcommittees be asked if any particular trails have changed.

Commissioner Kolb said to check in with the chair of the HHNP subcommittee. Chair Perkins asked for a printout from GIS highlighting Sklar trails, including their name, which need to be mapped. This will allow them to create map materials with a similar look to all of their parcel maps which makes them more accessible. He noted that NRPC is able to import their data into other apps such as All Trails.

Chair Perkins commented they probably shouldn't move forward with mapping Field Farms until parcel access issues are resolved. Commissioner Kolb questioned when mapping should take place of the Fields Farm property (FF). Chair Perkins and Commissioner Glenn suggested that a subcommittee be in place before mapping occurs. Chair Perkins shared that the most

expensive parts of this project would be for field work and custom mapping. A majority of this work has already been done for the MCC properties, with the exception of Sklar.

Commissioner Drouin shared a map of Field Farms he had received. The map shows trails that have been informally established, named, and maintained in FF without MCC approval. Chair Perkins will request that these trails be filtered out. Mapping issues will be revisited at the next MCC meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS –

- Commissioner Kolb expressed thanks to New England Mountain Bike Association for its recent workday on HHNP trails near the Old Kings Highway trailhead. While not on the Wildcat Falls subcommittee, she also noted a recent email to MCC from a WFCA visitor who had a bad experience there. The visitor shared that their dog was chased by other dogs not being properly controlled of their owners. Commissioner Kolb noted the animal control laws in town, with fines that could be assessed for violations.
- Chair Perkins shared Wildcat Falls subcommittee comments received from Vice- Chair Boisvert who also serves on the WFCA Subcommittee. Chair Perkins stated that No Parking signs are being installed along the side of the east entrance driveway. Reconstruction of the North Loop Bridge will take place at a workday to be held on Saturday October 15.
- Commissioner Drouin reported that he met with members of the Merrimack River Watershed Council on a site visit at Sklar. The visit included mapping of invasive plants. MRWC will contact him with a proposed management plan using MRWC funds. A guided hike at Sklar is scheduled for Saturday September 17, open to the public, focusing on the natural and human history of the area. Commissioner Kolb reported that the latest E.coli count for the Merrimack River at Sklar (taken 8/16) was 17, which was low and an improvement over measurements earlier in the season. She noted there would be one more test for the year on Tuesday August 30.
- Chair Perkins reported that the Community Development is going to research the Field Farms property, including the deed, and then provide some guidance on next best steps.
- Commissioner Drouin expressed concern about an item for comments of any sort (Commissioner, Public comments) no longer being listed on agenda. He questioned the purpose of the change. Commissioner Perkins said that this is to streamline and improve efficiencies. This will keep MCC agenda consistent with a template used by Planning and Zoning boards.
- Commissioner Drouin stated he had previously mentioned how the MCC should follow the Rules of Procedure they approved in June. He noted that there is a rule regarding number of allowed member absences from MCC and stated that there is a member who has missed 7 meetings in a row. He felt this should be discussed at some point. Chair Perkins provided background. He commented that the way the MCC rules of procedure are written allow for a member that is actively involved and engaged to be excused, provided the MCC maintains

quorum. Commissioner Drouin said in a town the size of Merrimack, there must be another individual interested in filling a seemingly inactive seat. Councilor Hunter asked if the Chair Perkins has access to that person if needed; Chair Perkins replied yes and that the member in question has been providing assistance as needed and is still putting in many hours of work for the MCC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion by Commissioner Kolb to approve the July 25, 2022 Conservation Commission meeting minutes with the following changes:

Page 1; in heading, remove “Annual Meeting”

Page 1, list of members present/absent; add “alternate” next to names of Commissioners Drouin, Rosati, and Trippett

Page 2, Line 70, change “Vie” to “Vice”

Page 4, line 144; change date to June 30, 2023

Page 5, Line 176; change “Liza” to “Liz”

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Glenn

Motion Carried

5-0-1

Abstained: Councilor Hunter

ADJOURNMENT –

Motion by Commissioner Glenn to Adjourn

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Trippett

The August 22, 2022 meeting of the Conservation Commission was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.