



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

AUGUST 7, 2017

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, August 7, 2017 at 6:33 p.m. in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Chairman Gage Perry presided:

Members of the Commission Present: Matt Caron, Vice Chairman
Michael Boisvert
Cynthia Glenn
Tim Tenhave, Alternate Member
Gina Rosati
Councilor Jackie Flood

Members of the Commission Absent:

Also in Attendance:

Chris Guida, Wetland Scientist/Soil Scientist, Fieldstone Land Consult.
Brett W. Vaughn, 123 Wilson Hill Road

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

There being no objection, the Commission went out of the regular order of business to take up Statutory/Advisory Business.

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS

1. Brett W. Vaughn (applicant) and Brett W. Vaughn Revocable Trust (owner)

Review for recommendation to the Planning Board of a 13 lot residential subdivision. The parcel is located at 123 Wilson Hill Road in the R-1 (Residential) District. Tax Map 4A, Lot 023.

Chris Guida, Wetland Scientist/Soil Scientist, Fieldstone Land Consulting, remarked the project was before the Commission a few years back. At that time, it was a cluster type sub-division consisting of 17 lots. As a result of concerns expressed by abutters and a request by the Planning Board (Board), the project has been revised to that of a conventional sub-division. By doing so, the number of lots was reduced, and a buffer area was created between the abutters on Wilson Hill Road and the lots proposed at the top of the hill.

Mr. Guida displayed plans depicting the 13-lot sub-division; 14-lot parcel when considering the existing structure (Mr. Vaughn's home). The change made was to move the placement of the road further away from the abutters and provide for a vegetative buffer. The buffer will not be restricted; abutters and others can access the area. The project does not impact wetlands.

When asked, Mr. Guida stated the wetlands were delineated a number of years ago, and were re-evaluated; flags refreshed and accuracy verified.

Chairman Perry commented on the easement through Lot 023-04 for access to Mr. Vaughn's property. Mr. Guida noted it would follow the existing driveway. Commissioner Tenhave questioned if the intent was that Mr. Vaughn would maintain the open space through his lot. Mr. Vaughn responded it is. Mr. Guida noted they are looking at

covenants that would apply to the area.

Commissioner Tenhave suggested the intended uses for that area be put in writing. What has been seen in the past is that, over time, such areas tend to become extended backyards for abutters. Mr. Vaughn voiced agreement. Chairman Perry remarked it could also become a dumping ground for lawn clippings, etc.

Commissioner Tenhave questioned the outcome of the review of Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations, LLC as to whether or not there are sufficient groundwater resources present to develop individual wells to meet the onsite water demands of the proposed sub-division and whether the development of individual wells at the sub-division will adversely impact existing neighboring wells.

Mr. Vaughn stated there were two studies done. The Board had originally provided the name of HydroSource Associates, Inc. The study clearly indicated there is plenty of water and highly unlikely that there would be any impact on existing wells particularly given the distance from the abutters. The abutters took issue with the report, and the Board requested a representative from HydroSource Associates be asked to attend a meeting to explain the results of the study.

Mr. Vaughn commented on the mention of a crystalline fracture stating the way we get our water in New Hampshire, it is virtually impossible to say that one fracture isn't going to touch another somewhere. However, that sparked enough concern that the Board requested Emery & Garrett review the study. Mr. Vaughn stated Emery & Garrett said the same thing in a few different words, and made it clear that they didn't like some of the wording that the other professional utilized, which he believes to be pretty common in such reviews. They had suggested that extensive studies could be conducted, but also concluded even with that, over time, it is uncertain.

Mr. Vaughn stated, at the conclusion of that process, the Chairman of the Board suggested speaking with the abutters to see if there might be changes that could be made to the plan to increase the comfort level of the abutters.

Mr. Vaughn noted some additional property was purchased, one lot was eliminated, and the road was moved further away from the abutters. In addition to the movement of the road, agreement was reached that the project would not include any blasting, and that some of the septic systems would be over-built.

Mr. Vaughn spoke of having to appear before the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) to address the reduced frontages on the cul-de-sac. The abutters that attended spoke in favor of the revised plan.

At the last Board meeting, an abutter attended, and stated he has lived here for 30 years, has 2 gallons/minutes, which is not enough water, and his well is 250' deep. That started a great deal more discussion. Mr. Vaughn stated there are a lot of wells with a lot of water in there. There is one individual without much water at all, and he does not have any place to dig another well. Mr. Vaughn identified an area where he stated he would be happy to allow that person to dig. He pointed out two lots that just dug wells, where each got 20 gallons/minute. Mr. Vaughn stated he spoke with Brandon Kernen, Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) regarding what is a reasonable use, and the idea that there wouldn't be any water on that hill. He stated he was pleased with the conversation, and has asked Chairman Best to have a conversation with him prior to the next time the project is before the Board.

Mr. Guida remarked, in general, the topic has been exhausted, and the preponderance of the evidence, particularly from NHDES is that most, with the exception of the one individual, meet or exceed all of the State's requirements for their wells. There really is no issue, and there has never been any issues as far as gaining water on individual lots. He stated his belief all of the professionals will state it is not an issue, never has been an issue, usually can be solved (may require digging deeper), and nobody can predict whether it would be detrimental to anyone else's well.

It was noted the plan still references blasting. Mr. Guida stated that would be revised. Note 17 on page 4 references the post-easement driveway on Lot 023-03, and should be corrected to identify Lot 023-04.

Chairman Perry suggested consideration be given to the use of low-phosphate, slow release nitrogen fertilizer.

When asked how the project would capture water coming down the road, Mr. Guida identified the locations of detention basins. Vice Chairman Caron highlighted the detention basin located near the wetlands, and questioned the overflow. Mr. Guida stated he would have to look into that although he is confident it meets Town

requirements noting the project includes a stormwater management plan, which could be provided the Commission.

Commissioner Tenhave remarked there was a lot located north of the site that Mr. Vaughn had an option on, and was going to incorporate into the site, and questioned if, with the current plan, that lot is no longer an option. Mr. Vaughn stated that to be correct; his option to purchase expired.

2. Mi-Box New England, LLC. (applicant) and TW Bridge Associates, LLC. (owner)

Review for acceptance and consideration of final approval for conditional use permit and site plan for the construction of a 39,100 s.f. self-storage facility, with associated site improvements. The parcel is located at 101 Herrick Street in the C-2 (General Commercial), I-1 (Industrial) and Aquifer Conservation Districts. Tax Map 3D-2, Lot 020.

Chris Guida, Wetland Scientist/Soil Scientist, Fieldstone Land Consulting, stated the parcel has been on the market for 20-25 years. There are a few challenging aspects to the property; steepness along D.W. Highway, somewhat burdened by stormwater from the D.W. Highway. Mr. Guida identified the areas of two drainage culverts that dump out. One has a fairly minimal flow; little bit of channelization during large storms. It infiltrates into the sandy soils. The other culvert carries enough water coming off of Smith Road and a low spot on D.W. Highway that it generates some velocity.

Essentially what has happened is there is a hanging culvert that has eroded away the sand. About 30' after the end of the culvert it has cut itself into the groundwater table. Mr. Guida identified the area on a map noting it has cut its channel. There is sediment coming out of the culvert and sediment that is getting eroded out of the bank that is being deposited into an area where it essentially flows out into a larger wetland to the east.

When asked, Mr. Guida stated once scoured out and the water table is intercepted, over time there will be generation of wetland plants, which is a natural progression, but the cause of it is probably 90% man made due to this runoff.

Mr. Guida stated part of the proposal is to extend both of the culverts to allow for a development. The intent would be to channel them into a plunge pool with gabions to dissipate all of the energy before it gets discharged into the wetlands. There is a small area of uplands, and then it basically filters down into the wetlands. He noted a side of the wetlands where there are groundwater seeps. All of the impervious area will be treated and picked up in the two basins. There is an underground infiltration system for it to infiltrate into the soil before going off site.

Mr. Guida noted the proposed project is a two-story storage building. The project has been before the ZBA, and has received a variance for a slight encroachment on the 50' front setback and a special exception for the wetlands work.

When asked, Mr. Guida stated a wetland permit will be necessary. He noted the impact is in excess of 10,000 sq. ft. Asked to speak to mitigation, he stated his suspicion it may be an in lieu fee given there is not a lot of area for upland preservation, etc.

Commissioner Tenhave stated given the opportunity and timing, the Commission would like to work with the owner/developer to provide an alternative mitigation opportunity. He questioned the timing. Mr. Guida was uncertain although agreed it is likely the project will not be ready for the current construction season. Mr. Guida commented he is certain they are willing to hear of all options.

Mr. Guida stated the site is challenging, but he believes the ZBA felt what is being proposed is a good use for the site.

When asked who owns the lot to the east that will receive all of the water, Mr. Guida stated his belief it may be the same owner that is selling the parcel. When asked if he has the stormwater evaluations that show what the flow will be before and after, Mr. Guida stated he did not have them, but is aware they are being actively developed. He added it is challenging; it is a small lot and there is a lot of water to pick up and take care of both from D.W. Highway and the impervious area. That information will be ready and available.

Commissioner Tenhave stated the desire of the Commission to see less runoff or at least no additional runoff as a

result of the project, and remarked that may be in regulations at this point.

The plan notes use of low-phosphate fertilizer. Commissioner Tenhave remarked given the proximity to the Merrimack River and a large wetland, his preference would be for no phosphate.

When asked, Mr. Guida stated there would be a maintenance plan for cleaning of the culverts. He commented some of the stormwater details continue to be worked, but essentially what is being proposed treats everything they have. Chairman Perry questioned if he could speak to the pump and ballasts, Mr. Guida stated he could not. He noted it is a newer type of infiltration system that he is not familiar with.

3. Review of Shoreland Permit by Notification for proposed gravel turnaround off of Upham Road.

The material was provided for informational purposes.

Commissioner Tenhave remarked, were the Commission to have an issue relative to the matter, it could provide comment(s) to the NHDES.

The Commission returned to the regular order of business.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Report on appointments from Sub-Committees

Commissioner Glenn stated the Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP) Sub-Committee has two members who were up for renewal. Another position changed over several months ago, and was extended to 3 years and 3 months. The two members whose terms have expired are Sharon Hickey (full member) and Rose Shajenko (alternate). The question was asked of whether Ms. Shajenko wished to serve as a full member. Commissioner Glenn stated her belief Ms. Shajenko would like to serve in that capacity. Commissioner Tenhave stated if that is the case, she should make the Commission aware. Commissioner Glenn noted Roland Roberge resigned at the last meeting. His term would have ended July 31, 2018. The Sub-committee now has openings for one full and one alternate position.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GLENN TO APPOINT SHARON HICKEY AS A FULL MEMBER AND ROSE SHAJENKO AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE HORSE HILL NATURE PRESERVE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE JULY 31, 2020
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE

ON THE QUESTION

When asked, Commissioner Tenhave stated, should Ms. Shajenko wish to serve in the capacity of full member, a vote of the Commission would be required to change her status. Such a change would result in two open alternate positions.

MOTION CARRIED
7-0-0

Commissioner Glenn commented the Sub-committee has not yet chosen a Vice-Chairman. She spoke of an alternate member who would serve well as Vice-Chairman; however, the individual is not a resident of Merrimack. The way the Bylaws are currently written, the position must be filled by a full member. Non-residents cannot hold the position of full member. Commissioner Tenhave noted the Commission could amend the Bylaws to allow for it. However, the Commission answers to the Town Council, and the Council could oppose such a change. A change to the Bylaws would result in the Commission's practices being inconsistent with how the rest of the Town committees, etc. operate. It is likely not advisable to make such a move.

Vice Chairman Caron stated the Grater Woods Sub-committee met the prior month, and proposed the following changes: Jason Wright as a full member with a term to expire July 31, 2018, Steve Marble as a full member with a term to expire July 31, 2019 (replacing Joe Cogan), Steve Desilets as a full member with a term to expire July 31, 2019, and Steve Bachand and Adam Dodge as alternate members with terms to expire July 31, 2018.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIRMAN CARON TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE GRATER

WOODS SUB-COMMITTEE: JASON WRIGHT AS A FULL MEMBER WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE JULY 31, 2018, STEVE MARBLE AND STEVE DESILETS AS FULL MEMBERS WITH TERMS TO EXPIRE JULY 31, 2019 AND STEVE BACHAND AND ADAM DODGE AS ALTERNATE MEMBERS WITH TERMS TO EXPIRE JULY 31, 2018

MOTION SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN PERRY

MOTION CARRIED

7-0-0

Commissioner Tenhave stated the Wildcat Falls Sub-committee recommends the re-appointment of Andrew Duane. Alternate positions remain open.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO APPOINT ANDREW DUANE AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE WILDCAT FALLS SUB-COMMITTEE WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE JULY 31, 2020

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GLENN

MOTION CARRIED

7-0-0

2. Ex-Officio Appointments of Merrimack Conservation Commission members for Sub-Committees

MOTION BY VICE CHAIRMAN CARON TO APPOINT CYNTHIA GLENN AS THE COMMISSION'S EX-OFFICIO MEMBER TO THE HORSE HILL NATURE PRESERVE SUB-COMMITTEE

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOISVERT

MOTION CARRIED

6-0-1

Commissioner Glenn Abstained

When asked if he wished to continue to serve, Commissioner Tenhave stated he would continue on, but likely only for the first half of the term as he would like to create the Fields Farm Sub-committee. Commissioner Rosati suggested she work with him for those 6 months with the intent to volunteer to serve in that capacity after that time. Commissioner Tenhave suggested the Commission appoint Commissioner Rosati, and stated he would be happy to assist her.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO APPOINT GINA ROSATI AS THE COMMISSION'S EX-OFFICIO MEMBER TO THE WILDCAT FALLS SUB-COMMITTEE

MOTION SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CARON

MOTION CARRIED

7-0-0

MOTION BY VICE CHAIRMAN CARON TO APPOINT GAGE PERRY AS THE COMMISSION'S EX-OFFICIO MEMBER TO THE GRATER WOODS SUB-COMMITTEE

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOISVERT

MOTION CARRIED

7-0-0

Vice Chairman Caron stated he would be attending the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on Wednesday to propose the kiosk in the resident parking lot at Wasserman Park (near start of Quarry Trail).

Vice Chairman Caron questioned the will of the Commission relative to the creation of a sub-committee for Wasserman Park. Commission Tenhave noted the property now consists of 100 acres. Chairman Perry commented Wildcat Falls was 80 acres when the sub-committee was created. Commissioner Boisvert questioned if it would be best to create an independent sub-committee or to address that property through the HHNP Sub-committee. Commissioner Tenhave spoke of the uses and permissions being different than those of the HHNP, and that the property is less mature and will likely require a sub-committee of people who want to get out and get their hands dirty. Vice Chairman Caron noted it has the fitness loop that is likely in need of repair. Commissioner Tenhave stated his preference for an independent sub-committee. Chairman Perry stated agreement.

Commissioner Tenhave noted the Commission was supposed to conduct its annual meeting in July; however the Commission did not meet during the month. It is during the annual meeting where the Bylaws are addressed and Commission appointments take place. He suggested that be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Grater Road Bypass

Chairman Perry commented the Public Works Department (PWD) has been working on this with the Commission. Dawn Tuomala, Deputy Director/Town Engineer, PWD, has provided him with some information, and would like to get together to discuss it further. The department has done a lot of prep work on the road. Deputy Director Tuomala has put together plans for its completion, and will devise a rough cost estimate that can be used when going out to bid. August 17th is a date that the Deputy Director will be available to meet after regular hours. Chairman Perry stated his intent to meet with her on that date to review the status. He welcomed other Commissioners to participate.

Commissioner Tenhave commented this is a project that could serve as a potential mitigation project for the 101 Herrick Street parcel spoken of earlier. This falls in line with what the Commission did on the Red Maple Trail so he expects it would garner the approval of NHDES.

Commissioner Boisvert questioned if the desire would be to improve the road as part of the mitigation. Chairman Perry stated the entrance portion would have to be made passable. The intent is for it to be accessible for emergency vehicles. Vice Chairman Caron noted a single large culvert would be needed. Commissioner Tenhave commented it may be necessary for the project to be a combined effort with funding from multiple sources.

2. Maps - Status & Printing / NH 911

Chairman Perry stated there were a few changes to the map for Grater Woods. The Nashua Regional Planning Commission will be redoing a small section of the map. Once completed, the information will be turned over to Papergraphics for printing (brochures). The Town Council has approved acceptance of the donation from Papergraphics for the waiving of printing fees.

Chairman Perry informed the Commission of having been contacted by NH 911. They are looking for maps of trails in the area. The GPS files were forwarded. Merrimack's former Police Chief, Mark Doyle is now the Division Director of Emergency Services for the State of New Hampshire. An email was received from him stating how pleased he is with the maps.

Commissioner Tenhave stated he has postponed placing the maps on the website until knowing they are complete.

Commissioner Rosati spoke of having previously indicated she would prepare a write-up for local newsprint. She provided copies of her draft for the Commission to review and provide feedback on.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Merrimack Village District (MVD) Well Study – Control Plot in Grater Woods for the next few years.

Chairman Perry stated when de-watering a well and drawing water from it, there is the need to ensure it is not impacting other areas. He cautioned the MVD that the Commission needs to be aware of the activity and that a sign needs to be placed in the area (10x10 plot in Red Maple swamp). The plot will be taped off and staked. Chairman Perry also suggested that the tape be dated. It will likely be there for 3-4 years. Before doing anything at the well they will perform an inventory of plants, hydrology of soil, etc. Once they start to draw water, they regularly check the site to ensure nothing changes.

The date of when the plot will be put in has not yet been provided.

Councilor Flood questioned if MVD would oversee the project, and was informed the plot will be that of the MVD. Commissioner Tenhave stated it would be MVD's engineering firm that does the work. Commissioner Boisvert questioned if this would be the first time MVD would draw from the well, and was informed it would be. There are a number of test wells on the site.

OTHER BUSINESS

● **Sub Committee Updates**

- HHNP – Skidder Damage / Summit Trail plans / Spaulding Foundation Plaque

Commissioner Glenn stated the Spaulding Foundation project has been done. However, the Life Scout was unable to get the plaque finished. Peter Mikolajczuk, HHNP Sub-committee member, stated a willingness to take over that portion of the project. It is unclear if the wording has to be approved by the Commission. Mr. Mikolajczuk intends to contact Anita Creager, Heritage Commission, for advice on the wording.

Commissioner Tenhave stated Mr. Mikolajczuk and Ms. Creager reached out to him the previous week, and the three of them have been exchanging emails. He suggested they come up with some wording, and bring it before the Commission for approval. He commented approval is mostly related to cost. Ms. Creager is doing research on the Spaulding family and the different families that have lived in the area. She uncovered that there are likely two Spaulding foundations; however, she is unaware of where the second one is located.

At this time they are awaiting wording from Ms. Creager who wishes to locate it down to the exact family as she knows, from records, who the families were, etc. Believing there are two foundations, it is unclear which is being marked. As a result, the wording may be more generic.

Commissioner Glenn questioned if the possibility exists that the PWD could mow the area of the Spaulding foundation. Chairman Perry stated a request could be made. The desire is for the PWD to mow the parking lot at the HHNP and areas of Grater Woods and Wildcat Falls.

Commissioner Glenn spoke of the HHNP fund, and informed the Commission the question was raised of whether the fund could be utilized to purchase a motorized DRN (brush mower). Vice Chairman Caron commented he offered a non-motorized DRN, but the offer was declined. Chairman Perry stated his belief those funds are earmarked for maintenance, but not capital purchases. Vice Chairman Caron commented maintenance costs on such a device would exceed the current fund balance. He did not believe it to be a practical investment for a sub-committee.

Commissioner Rosati questioned the required frequency of mowing. Vice Chairman Caron stated he mowed the Spaulding foundation area twice a year. Commissioner Rosati questioned if it would make sense to rent a mower twice a year. Commissioner Tenhave commented it makes sense to be a PWD activity if the Commission can coordinate with them; even if the Commission has to fund it. They are the professionals who can bring a vehicle down Old Kings Highway, get pretty close to the foundation, do the work and get out of the area. It is a gated access. They have the keys to the gate. They carry the insurance for the Town equipment, Town employees, etc. Chairman Perry will reach out to the PWD.

Commissioner Glenn questioned if people could start the cleanup process related to the damage caused by the skidder. Chairman Perry stated the Commission has zero ability to go after the responsible individual. There are wetland violations. The NHDES has indicated more damage would take place in the process of assessing the damage, e.g., draining the wetland, etc. A number of trees were lost; however, they were small in size and had no timber value to be viewed as timber trespass. It has now become an issue of trespassing. There is no real ordinance to say no motorized vehicles. Commissioner Tenhave remarked it is unfortunate, but the individual will get away with the activity. Commissioner Boisvert questioned if the individual could be asked to make a donation to the HHNP fund. Chairman Perry responded that could occur. The Commission was in agreement with that approach. The question was asked of what the requested amount could/should be.

Commissioner Tenhave suggested the Community Development Department be asked to relay the Town would not pursue any further action if the individual would provide \$100 donation to the Town of Merrimack, HHNP.

Chairman Perry stated he would make Tim Thompson, Director, Community Development, aware of the Commission's desire.

It is acceptable for volunteers to begin cleaning of the area. The Commission expressed its gratitude for that effort.

Commissioner Glenn asked if there is an official report from Jeff Littleton, Moosewood Ecological, LLC, which could be shared with the sub-committee. Chairman Perry stated he could forward the email that Mr. Littleton provided after walking the area with sub-committee member, Don LaLiberte. His response was similar to that of NHDES in terms of the impact that would result from assessing the level of damage caused.

Commissioner Glenn questioned if a dog waste receptacle has been placed at Wildcat Falls. She noted problems that continue with the issue of dog waste. Commissioner Tenhave responded that is hopefully something the sub-committee would discuss at its meeting the following night. Vice Chairman Caron stated the Parks and Recreation Department put one in at Wasserman Park (part of the dog park).

Councilor Flood noted Watson Park has one that was donated by Pets Choice when it opened. She is unsure who maintains it.

Chairman Perry stated Mr. Duane came before the Commission on this matter previously having done a great deal of research on the matter, e.g., cost of bags, etc. It is a reoccurring fee. The other issue is those who are contributing to the problem currently will likely pick up a bag, use it, and leave it behind. That is something that is already being seen on different parcels.

Vice Chairman Caron commented Wildcat Falls has the advantage of having a trash can that is emptied on a regular basis as does Watson Park. Those are taken care of by the PWD. The HHNP is without a trash can as is Grater Woods. As a result, bags are left along the first 50± yards of the first trail entering the area. Chairman Perry commented on the multiple entrances to some of the parks noting Wildcat Falls has a single main entrance. He questioned where barrel placement would be at the other locations. Councilor Flood suggested not introducing barrels in additional locations that would result in additional maintenance work for the PWD.

Commissioner Rosati questioned what harm would result from users of the trails simply tossing dog waste off the trail and into the wooded areas where it would decompose. It was noted the issue is that people don't do that or they leave it at the edge of the trail. Commissioner Tenhave stated another concern is with people throwing the waste into a wetland or the runoff will run straight into the wetland. The feces could contain medications the dog has had, etc., which could cause issues for the wetland.

Commissioner Glenn commented the beavers have been busy by the Bradish Bridge area. The sub-committee has questioned if Beaver Solutions could once again review the area. Chairman Perry responded the stream is in a little valley. Anywhere a leveler were to be put in, the beaver could go 10' beyond it and cause the whole problem all over again. It is simply not a location that fits that solution. The Commission was told it will take some active management on its part; taking those dams down. Commissioner Tenhave stated another possibility is eliminating the trail and going a different route. He commented in another 5-6 years it will subside on its own, we will have 8-10 years of bliss, and it will come back again once the food source comes back. Their cycle is going to end soon and they will move on.

Commissioner Glenn stated she passed along the decision relative to the Summit Trail, and requested members of the sub-committee keep their eyes open for alternatives to getting to that point. It was unclear if anyone is actively working that at this time. Vice Chairman Caron noted the last time he was out there he noticed the flags had been removed.

Commissioner Glenn stated some are still concerned with the width. Chairman Perry commented the biggest concern was the elevation. To make that trail hardened and sustainable it will have to switchback its way up. Commissioner Tenhave stated his preference nothing be started until the Commission is certain there is a route that can accommodate the uses; just live with what we have for the time being. Vice Chairman Caron questioned what user group would build a double-wide trail. Commissioner Tenhave stated his suspicion it would have to be an affiliation.

Chairman Perry remarked it may just be that the route to get from the post to the summit will be identified as something different than the Summit Trail. Commissioner Tenhave noted the Commission has already approved a portion of the Summit Trail. To actually install it, it should be for the multiple uses. Right now he does not see the value in having a skinny trail that goes through and the one we wish to discontinue, but we don't discontinue because we don't have something that supports all of the uses. Chairman Perry stated the Commission voted on that, and voted that part of this is going to be that there is going to have to be an alternate route found to get the wider uses up that hill. We voted to approve the smaller trail. Commissioner Tenhave stated he must have

misunderstood as he believed the Commission approved the location of the trail, but did not approve that it would be a single wide; thought the trail would be made to accommodate the multiple uses. Chairman Perry remarked they would have to find another way up the hill to accommodate the wider uses. That elevation and the rise in the run will not support the turns necessary to get up that hill. Commissioner Boisvert commented perhaps the Commission did not talk about the other uses at the time the trail was approved. Chairman Perry stated he believes it was made pretty clear; this is a multi-use trail, but it will not be every use as we need to find another way up that hill for snowmobiles, horses, etc.

Vice Chairman Caron remarked if a snowmobile or a horse wants to get up to the summit they can come in from the powerlines and go down the east slope. Chairman Perry commented you can't close off a part of the trail because the trail has to get rebuilt. He wants to ensure we still have a way to get from point A to point B regardless of what trail is where.

- Grater Woods - Classroom Bridge boardwalk/Outdoor Classroom rebuild

Vice Chairman Caron stated the largest concern is the mowing of Gateway.

The Sub-committee completed the Outlook Trail; has been cut, blazed, and signed. It now connects users into the Amherst Grater Woods Trail, the view of the Wapack Range, and comes down into the Silver Fish Trail.

Additional signs have been placed as a means of establishing some of the boundaries and to keep users on the designated trails. A few trails have been re-marked. Vice Chairman Caron spoke of the abundance of wildlife; saw a moose and quite a few deer over the weekend.

Chairman Perry questioned if the Life Scout has reached out regarding the Classroom rebuild project. Vice Chairman Caron stated he has not; believes the Scout is waiting for the fundraising aspect to complete. He commented on having been contacted by another scout seeking suggestions for a project. He replied, but has not yet heard back.

Chairman Perry stated he has been in touch with the Girl Scouts, and they are going to start working on re-treading the bridges that are on the school property (using untouched spruce that was cut during Logs to Lumber). They will start with the ballfield bridge, will go in and do the Brickyard bridge, Link bridge, and, if time permits, will get the Ridge bridge. They have never done this before; new foray for them. Vice Chairman Caron commented he would like to re-do the Ridge bridge completely and put it closer to the ground.

The remaining lumber was taken for the bridge going to the Outdoor Classroom off of Bambi Lane.

Commissioner Tenhave stated the Wildcat Falls Sub-committee has not met for a few months. There was some fieldwork done. He commented there are questions that will be brought up the following night regarding erosion concerns and a potential bench. He will report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Chairman Perry questioned the will of the Commission regarding standardizing the bench the Scouts put in behind the school. Commissioner Tenhave stated that is the design that was used in Wildcat Falls although the same colors were not used. When asked if there is a print available of how that is constructed, Commissioner Tenhave stated he would make the inquiry.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

Merrimack Conservation Commission. June 19, 2017

The following amendments were offered:

Page 4, Line 1; insert the word "add" before the word "sewer"

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO ACCEPT AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOISVERT
MOTION CARRIED**

6-0-1

Commissioner Glenn Abstained

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Tenhave informed the Commission he is in the process of moving, but will retain his residency in Merrimack throughout the entire period.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GLENN TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CARON
MOTION CARRIED
7-0-0**

The August 7, 2017 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan