



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, FEBRUARY 12, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER -

A Meeting of the Conservation Commission was called to order on Monday February 12, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Memorial Room.

Steve Perkins, Chair, presided:

Members of the Commission Present:

Andrew Duane
Andy Hunter, Town Councilor
Ellen Kolb
Tom Martinson, Alternate Member
Danielle Melanson, Alternate Member
Eric Starr, Vice-Chair
Karis Welsh

Members of the Commission Absent

Gage Perry

Chair Perkins designated Commissioner Melanson to sit in as a voting member for Commissioner Perry.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

NEW BUSINESS –

- **Winter Carnival: February 24, 2024**

Merrimack Parks and Recreation is sponsoring the Town's Annual Winter Carnival on February 24, 2024 from noon to 3pm. Commissioner Kolb asked that this be

placed on the agenda to confirm whether MCC will participate this year. Chair Perkins said that MCC usually has an information table, and he gave an overview of the event. He said it's usually well-attended. The MCC display usually includes maps and a duck box. Commissioner Welsh suggested having a QR code on display linked to the MCC Facebook page, and Commissioner Duane suggested that one be provided linking to the Merrimack Outdoors website as well.

Several Commissioners volunteered for shifts at the display, and all commissioners are welcome to come by during the event. Chair Perkins, Vice-Chair Starr and Commissioner Welsh will handle set-up and the first half of the event. Chair Perkins stated that he will bring the duck box. Commissioners Duane and Martinson will come for the second half of the day. Commissioner Kolb provided HHNP maps, and she will check with Community Development to see if maps for other properties are available.

Commissioner Kolb asked that anyone attending the Carnival take photos to be used for MCC reports, social media and the website.

- **Invasive Species Clean-Up Day**

Commissioner Welsh described the project being organized by her and Commissioner Melanson. The priority is removal of invasive burning bush at the Sklar Waterfront Park. After that, they will look into burning bush removal on other MCC properties. The Commissioners stated that they want to make this cleanup an annual event for at least three years since eradication of the invasive species in an area can't be completed in a single season. Commissioner Duane noted that kudzu is becoming an issue at Wildcat Falls.

The Sklar subcommittee already has a cleanup day scheduled for May 4, 2024, so that's the day for the cleanup, rain or shine. The work needs to be done in late spring before the plants go to seed. All plants pulled up during the cleanup will be put into black trash bags. They cannot be placed with yard waste at the Transfer Station. Chair Perkins stated he will check with DPW about use of a truck for transporting bags to the Transfer Station. He also added that this event needs to be formally posted by Community Development.

Commissioner Duane offered the use of his chipper to reduce volume of the pulled-up vegetation. Commissioner Martinson asked if that raised liability concerns; Chair Perkins stated that MCC will need to check with the Town Manager. There was a brief discussion about the use of power tools for the cleanup, and the Commissioners noted that chain saws are not to be used.

Commissioner Welsh asked if MCC could have a shed for tools used in projects. Chair Perkins reviewed discussion of this topic in earlier years which resulted in a

decision not to move forward with such a project. Commissioner Duane said that volunteers generally bring their own tools to cleanup days.

OTHER BUSINESS –

- **Sign for Sklar Waterfront Park**

Commissioner Duane has noticed mentioned on Facebook about the need for a sign near the entrance to Sklar. Chair Perkins said that right-of-way concerns are holding up a decision on placement of a sign. It's a matter of where to place the sign. Town Councilor Hunter suggested asking the Town Manager if a sign can be placed near the pumping station on Griffin Street. Chair Perkins stated he will do that. In a response to a question from Commissioner Welsh, he added that the next step is to come up with a design for a sign.

- **Preparation for Annual Meeting: May 13, 2024**

Chair Perkins stated that MCC's Annual Meeting is in a few months. He asked commissioners to look at the MCC charter in advance and bring forward any recommendations for improvement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion by Commissioner Kolb to approve the January 22, 2024 Conservation Commission minutes without amendment.

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Duane

Motion Carried

5-0-2

Abstained Chair Perkins and Town Councilor Hunter

ADJOURNMENT –

Motion to Adjourn by Commissioner Starr

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Melanson

Motion Carried

7-0-0

The February 12, 2024 meeting of the Conservation Commission was adjourned at 6:58pm.