



# Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

6 Baboosic Lake Road

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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## MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024

### MEETING MINUTES

#### **CALL TO ORDER -**

A Meeting of the Conservation Commission was called to order on Monday February 26, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Matthew Thornton Room.

Steve Perkins, Chair, presided:

Members of the Commission Present:

Andrew Duane

Ellen Kolb

Tom Martinson, Alternate Member

Eric Starr, Vice-Chair

Karis Welsh

Members of the Commission Absent

Gage Perry

Andy Hunter, Town Councilor

Danielle Melanson, Alternate Member

David Trippett, Alternate Member

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

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** –

- **Review of Minimum Impact Standard Dredge & Fill Permit Application from Jan C. & Lynn C. Langer Revocable Trust - The proposal intends to repair and replace in-kind a pre-existing, legal retaining wall, re-construct water access steps, and construct a retaining wall with stormwater diversion techniques. The parcel is located at 25 Jebb Road. Tax Map 6A-2 Lot 165.**

The Conservation Commission is invited to comment to NHDES on this proposal and to request extra time to review it if necessary. Consensus of commissioners was that this project requires no extra review. It appears to be a straightforward repair and upgrade to an existing residential property, and is not likely to have ill effects on Baboosic Lake.

- **Vote to consider lumber request for maintenance at Grater Woods. Lumber to cost a total of \$103.43 – Submitted by Gage Perry**

Packets for tonight's meeting include a request from Commissioner Perry for \$103.43 for lumber, with the quote provided by Reeds Ferry Lumber.

**Motion by Commissioner Kolb to authorize expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$150.00 from fund 53 for this material.**

**Seconded by Commissioner Duane**

**Motion Carried**

**6-0-0**

- **Dog waste concerns – Submitted by Steve Perkins**

Chair Perkins shared that the Commission had received concerns expressed by Merrimack residents in regards to signage for trailhead kiosks reminding pet owners to remove pet waste from trails. Commissioners Duane and Martinson commented that there has been a big problem with dog waste along trails in Wildcat Falls and Grater Woods. This includes trail users who use bags to collect pet waste but then leave the bags along the trail. Carry-in-carry-out is the trash-management policy at all Conservation Commission owned properties. Commissioner Welsh noted that if the Commission were to place garbage cans at trailheads, then they would need to maintain them.

The Commission's consensus is that increased signage with a light or humorous tone could be helpful, keeping in mind that people don't want to see so much signage that the properties lose their natural appeal. Some standard signage is available online at a modest cost. Future consideration of providing disposal bags at trailheads might be appropriate.

Chair Perkins asked Commissioner Kolb to ask the Horse Hill subcommittee at its March 7 meeting if they'd like to have signs for HHNP. Commissioner Martinson will bring the same question to Grater Woods and Sklar subcommittees, and Commissioner Duane will check with the Wildcat Falls subcommittee. If any signs need to be purchased, Chair Perkins will place the request on the March 25, 2024 Conservation Commission agenda.

- **NRPC mapping project – revised funding request for a total of \$4,200.00 and update. – *Submitted by Steve Perkins***

Chair Perkins explained that the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) mapping project was originally approved in late 2022. NRPC has provided an addendum to the trail mapping contract that was signed in 2022. The money for the project was not used elsewhere, but a new motion would need to be made to cover the additional \$500.00 that had been added to the cost of the project. The project was originally supposed to cost \$3,700.00 and will now cost \$4,200.00. The project has an estimated completion date of June 20, 2024.

**Motion by Commissioner Duane to authorize expenditure of \$500.00 from Fund 53 to cover the additional amount listed in the contract addendum.**

**Seconded by Commissioner Martinson**

**Motion Carried**

**6-0-0.**

- **Vote on potential purchase of Root Wrenches with a total cost of \$444.00 – *Submitted by Karis Welsh***

Commissioner Welsh provided information (included in meeting packet) about cost and availability for root wrenches, manual tools to aid in the removal of woody invasive plants. Ideally, these tools would be acquired in time for the May 4, 2024 Sklar cleanup, and would then be available to the Commission for other invasives-removal projects. Commissioner Welsh provided information about companies that make the tools, and she also reported that she had been unable to find a way to acquire the tools at no cost (nothing like it is available from the Merrimack Library's "Library of Things," and the nearest Conservation Commission that has the tool is in Epping). She recommends that the Commission purchase three root-wrench tools from the Pullerbear company (one each model Cub Lite XL, Cub Lite, and Grip XL) at an estimated cost of \$444.00 including shipping.

**Motion by Commissioner Duane to allocate funds not to exceed \$500.00 from Fund 53 for the purchase of three root wrenches.**

**Seconded by Vice-Chair Starr**

**Motion Carried**

**6-0-0**

**OTHER BUSINESS –**

- **Rules of procedure review at upcoming Annual Meeting**

Chair Perkins reminded commissioners to look at the Conservation Commission's Rules of Procedure and make any suggestions for improvement in time for their Annual Meeting in May.

- **Feedback from the 2024 Winter Carnival**

The Merrimack Winter Carnival was well-attended, and Commissioners staffed a Conservation Commission table. Congratulations to Commissioner Welsh for the interactive display that drew attention to MCC information.

- **Duck box maintenance update**

Commissioners Martinson and Perry were able two weeks ago to clean out six duck boxes on the big pond in Grater Woods, and put up a new one near the peninsula called The View. Last weekend, Tom went to a smaller pond near Silverfish trail to place another box. He has one box left that's available for other areas, but installation and maintenance require frozen surfaces and the recent warm weather has made that impossible.

- **Reminder regarding subcommittee meeting schedules, meeting agendas, and minutes**

Chair Perkins reminded Commissioners that all subcommittees need to provide meeting schedules, agendas, and meeting minutes to the Community Development staff in a timely manner. He asked commissioners to make sure that the subcommittees on which they serve have meeting schedules in place for this year. Subcommittees can welcome volunteers at any time. If someone wants to become a formal member, the subcommittee chair can bring the nomination to the MCC for approval.

Commissioner Kolb said that at the MCC annual meeting, they will need to assign commissioners to the subcommittees. Several commissioners indicated they were willing to continue to serve where they're currently assigned.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES –**

**Motion by Commissioner Kolb to approve the February 12, 2024  
Conservation Commission minutes with the following amendments**

Page 2, Line 78 change "chipped" to "chipper"

Page 1, Line 10 Remove "Eric- Starr, Vice-Chair" and change to "Steve Perkins,  
Chair"

**Motion Seconded by Chair Perkins**

**Motion Carried**

**6-0-0**

Commissioner Welsh inquired whether the Town Manager had been consulted about the use of a chipper during the May 4 invasive-removal cleanup. Chair Perkins replied no.

**ADJOURNMENT** –

**Motion to Adjourn by Commissioner Kolb**

**Motion Seconded by Commissioner Duane**

**Motion Carried**

**6-0-0**

The February 26, 2024 meeting of the Conservation Commission was adjourned at 7:23pm.