



# Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

6 Baboosic Lake Road

Town Hall - Lower level - East Wing

Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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## MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

JANUARY 25, 2021

### MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 6:32 p.m.

Steven Perkins, Chair, presided:

Members of the Commission Participating: Michael Boisvert, Vice Chair  
Cynthia Glenn  
Gage Perry  
Eric Starr  
Michael Drouin, Alternate Member  
Tim Tenhave, Alternate Member

Members of the Commission Absent: Gina Rosati, Secretary  
Councilor Peter Albert

Also Participating: Matt Peterson, Keach-Nordstrom Associates  
Kyle Fox, Director, Public Works Department

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Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis, and in accordance with [Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12](#) pursuant to [Executive Order 2020-04](#), this Commission is authorized to meet electronically.

As stated on the agenda, the meeting was aired live on Merrimack TV (Channel 20). Telephone access was available for members of the public wishing to provide comment; 1-312-626-6799 US / 1-929-205-6099 US (Meeting ID: 998 1095 1847).

Also identified on the agenda was the opportunity for public comment to be submitted leading up to the start of the meeting via email to: [CommDev@MerrimackNH.Gov](mailto:CommDev@MerrimackNH.Gov).

Commissioners were participating via Zoom. In accordance with [RSA 91-A:2 III](#), Each member was asked to state, for the record, where they were, why their attendance in person was not reasonably practical, who, if anyone, was with them, and whether or not they were able to hear the proceedings.

### Chair Perkins

Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

**Vice Chair Boisvert**

Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

**Commissioner Glenn**

Stated she was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and could hear the proceedings.

**Commissioner Perry**

Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

**Commissioner Starr**

Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

**Commissioner Tenhave**

Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

**Commissioner Drouin**

Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

It was acknowledged all members participating electronically could be heard. The Commission was reminded all votes would be taken by Roll Call.

*Chair Perkins designated Commissioner Drouin to sit in for Councilor Albert and Commissioner Tenhave for Commissioner Rosati.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS** - None

**APPOINTMENTS**

Chair Perkins noted Commissioner Starr has been appointed to a full-time position.

**STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS**

1. **Ron Dupont (applicant) and Streif, LLC (owner)** – Review for recommendation to the Planning Board of a Site Plan to construct a 2,950 square foot mixed use (professional office and 3 studio apartments) building. The parcel is located at 406 Daniel Webster Highway in the C-2 (General

Commercial), Aquifer Conservation and Elderly Housing Overlay Districts. Tax Map 5D-4, Lot 099.

Matt Peterson, Keach-Nordstrom Associates, stated the lot was incorporated into the Overlook Estate project. It is 0.863 acres in total area and has been previously cleared. The existing engineered slope begins at the shoulder of East Chamberlain and runs down to a grassed pad situation along D.W. Highway. The parcel has frontage on both D.W. Highway and East Chamberlain Road and is bound by the two roadways to the east and west respectively, as well as a single-family home to the south.

There are no wetlands onsite; mainly Hinckley and Windsor soils. It has all been disturbed at this point with the exception of a small area in the corner of the lot. Prior to the site plan coming forward as part of the overall project and the road.

The proposed project is to construct a 2,950 sq. ft. office building having 3 residential studio apartments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The project also proposes the construction of a driveway off D.W. Highway and an accompanying 13 space parking lot as well as the required drainage improvements.

The topography is relatively flat with the exception of the engineered slope. Proposed is the collection of all stormwater runoff in a sediment forebay that would run through a small grass line treatment swale and into the infiltration basin. Almost 100% of the water will infiltrate in with the soils. The hydrocad study indicates a small amount of overflow. For the 25-year storm, there is about .95 CFS going into the infiltration pond, .23 expected to infiltrate into the ground, and .03 would go out into the roadside swale and into the Town's system.

East Chamberlain Road drainage is collected in catch basins. Water comes down around onto D.W. Highway into a roadside swale and into a closed system that goes across and out the Synergy Self-Storage facility and around back.

Commissioner Perry stated the desire to ensure all plantings are non-invasive, local species. Mr. Peterson noted the plantings would be consistent with those utilized in the Overlook Estates project.

The Site Plan includes a note that states "No salt or chemical de-icers are to be used for winter maintenance, and winter maintenance shall be performed by a Green SnowPro Certified (or functional equivalent certification) contractor."

Asked if there is anything around the dumpster pad that could collect any spillage, Mr. Peterson noted he does not have the grade change without putting it into the drainage system or catch basin on the road. He would rather maintain it onsite in the driveway. Commissioner Tenhave commented he was curious as to whether it would end up leaching into the ground. Mr. Peterson noted the high point and direction of drainage. Any spillage in the area of the dumpster would not make its way onto the grass.

Asked if the building would have stormwater collected, he noted the roof gutters designed for collection.

Commissioner Tenhave commented on having noted that reference to fertilizer has "0" in the middle value, which he is pleased to see (limiting Phosphate).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Public Works Department - Review of Souhegan River Trail project with respect to anticipated contribution to the New Hampshire Department of Environment Services (NHDES) Aquatics Resource Management (ARM) Fund

Kyle Fox, Director, Public Works Department, spoke of the Souhegan River Trail project, and the intermediate step that needs to be completed prior to submission of the final Wetland Application to NHDES.

The project has been in the works since 2015. The Town was awarded a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant from the Department of Transportation. The purpose of the TAP Grant is to provide modes of transportation other than vehicles. There is particular interest for trails and sidewalks that connect groups of populations to businesses, schools, etc.

This project originated with the Merrimack Town Center Committee, which is a committee of the Town Council that looked for ways to develop the Town Center. One of the outcomes developed in 2009 was a Pedestrian Trail Master Plan. This project came out of that Master Plan.

The project will begin in Watson Park at the existing looped sidewalk, enter the park and make its way to the sluiceway.

The Chamberlain Bridge that carries D.W. Highway traffic over the Souhegan River has two arches in it. The large one carries the river, but the smaller one was previously used as a sluiceway for the tannery and other industries. The trail will make use of that historic sluiceway, come underneath D.W. Highway, adjacent to the fire department, and make its way out and across what used to be an impoundment of water behind the dam. It will connect through there and end up in the woods on the other side of the impoundment to the existing trails, which go up to the high school and Eighty Acres. Once the pedestrian bridge is back, it will connect to the West Chamberlain neighborhoods. It is an important project in regard to connecting the east side of the turnpike to the west side of the turnpike.

Director Fox noted of most interest to the Commission are the wetland impacts on the project, which develops around the old impoundment area. Even though no longer a pond, it is still considered wetlands. Proposed is fill (gravel material) and a sidewalk on top. One drainage culvert will carry water that collects all the way from Woodbury Street. It is this wetland impact that is the subject of the discussion.

Prior to submitting the wetland application, the department and consultant, Quantum Construction Consultants, Concord, NH, conducted a virtual pre-submission meeting with NHDES during which it was made known there is the need for mitigation for the wetland impact. The total square footage of impact, permanent and temporary, is approx. 7,130 sq. ft. Mitigation must be in the form of Aquatic resource Buffer Preservation as listed in Env-Wt 804.

There are two means of mitigation; one is to do a project that would either protect upland areas or existing wetland areas and the other is a financial payment to the ARM Fund.

Director Fox questioned if the Commission had any projects that would fall within the size required, are shovel ready, and could be presented to NHDES as an alternative to paying into the fund. If not, he requested the Commission recommend to NHDES that the Town make the payment to the ARM Fund, which would be 80% reimbursable by the State through the TAP Program.

Director Fox commented on having gone through this process a number of years ago with the Manchester Street Bridge project. As part of that work, a mitigation project was done through the program; upgraded the Red Maple Swamp Trail in Grater Woods. The key to its success was that the Commission already had a plan developed and the timing worked out.

Asked about the timeline, Director Fox stated the desire to put the project out to bid in May if the wetland application and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) document that must be submitted to the Federal Highway, can be approved in that time, with construction slated to start this summer.

Commissioner Tenhave noted the Town/Commission owns an acre of land abutting the school project that is along the extended part of the Souhegan River Trail. It was purchased from Mrs. Patterson, and no restrictions were put on the Deed. He questioned if a conservation minded restriction could be placed on the Deed and call that the mitigation. Director Fox commented on it being an interesting thought.

Commissioner Tenhave stated his impression another parcel of land could be offered. He believes the parcel has uplands and may be viable. He was uncertain how to make that determination.

Director Fox stated that could be looked at in conjunction with the consultant. Env-Wt 804.02 – Dimensions, states in part “an upland buffer shall be a minimum of 100 feet wide and contiguous with the protected resource(s).” It is a different resource because it is not the actual impoundment, but it is certainly contiguous with the river. He believes it would be a higher-class resource than the meadow and was pleased with the idea. Commissioner Tenhave noted that could be achieved with little effort (attorney cost). Asked about the purchase price, Commissioner Tenhave stated his recollection the purchase price was \$12,000. He is uncertain what the assessed value was. The parcel does have a Right-of-Way out to McElwain Street.

Asked if the property abuts the project, Commissioner Tenhave responded not quite. Director Fox noted the project scope originally called for upgrading the existing path trail through the woods with a more formal stone dust path. They quickly learned to accommodate the Federal Highway ADA requirements, e.g., maintain slopes of 12-1 for a certain length and then flat areas, etc. the project became extremely expensive. The project was shortened to what is seen today. Originally, the project was supposed to go through that 1-acre parcel.

Commissioner Tenhave noted if the parcel is not large enough in size or a high enough dollar value, there are other examples along the Souhegan River where there are parcels without conservation easements over the top of them. There is also the Tomasian property for which the Commission is currently in the process of preparing the Deed. That transfer should occur by March. It is meant for passive recreation only, and probably has 200-300 or more feet along the Souhegan River. Riverside Drive is further east along the river and is a large parcel absent of a conservation easement.

Director Fox stated he would look up the deeds for the 3 parcels, and put together a communication for Lori Sommer, Wetland Mitigation Coordinator, NHDES, to see if there is interest. He questioned how the Commission wished to proceed, e.g., receive a report back at the next meeting or instruct that he move forward with a donation to the ARM Fund in the event neither of the parcels satisfy the requirements.

Commissioner Tenhave spoke of a project that is nearly shovel ready in Grater Woods. Guidance was received from GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., (GZA) that it may not have qualified for ARM Funds. The project is the rerouting of South Grater Road around the pond. The road was closed off and gated. Dawn Tuomala, Deputy Director PWD/Town Engineer, conducted survey work a few years ago and put the

project together (value between \$50,000 - \$75,000). The Commission is looking to maintain emergency access, but not have it run through the wetland (take it up over the uplands).

Beyond that, there is a land purchase the Commission has been considering that would have to be discussed outside of a public meeting. That also has the possibility of significant wetland value. Director Fox remarked he could identify it just so; land purchase with significant value, and perhaps there could be a contribution to that.

Commissioner Tenhave remarked, prior to COVID, the Commission was working with GZA to identify potential parcels of high value that would be appropriate for ARM Funding. A write-up was prepared, and target properties identified, however, work has not moved forward in that regard. There are other items that could be pursued and Commission funds that could be contributed to move projects forward.

Director Fox spoke of the prior online calculator where users input information on location, square footage, etc., and it calculated a contribution number. Apparently that no longer exists, and NHDES now determines the value for any contribution. Using the old calculator, the consultant determined the total for permanent and temporary impacts would be just under \$20,000.

Chair Perkins requested Director Fox provide an update at the Commission's meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **2. 2021 Annual Seedling Giveaway**

Chair Perkins spoke of the large turnout at last year's event, which was able to be modified to ensure social distancing, etc. The small number of seedlings that remained were planted in the Wasserman Conservation Area.

The list from the previous year is typically used when viewing what will be available through the catalogue. The history of what does and does not do well at the event is used to determine what to purchase in any given year.

Commissioner Perry stated a willingness to go over the process with anyone wishing to spearhead the activity. He will provide the Commission with a copy of the list of seedlings ordered for last year's event for discussion/consideration at the February 8, 2021 meeting.

## **3. Annual duck box cleaning and inventory**

Vice Chair Boisvert stated the ice is thick enough for the work to be completed. He was in the area earlier in the day and found a duck box in Grater Woods that was knocked over but can be fixed.

Commissioner Perry has two additional duck boxes.

Vice Chair Boisvert spoke of one on a small upper pond in Grater Woods where the tree rotted and fell through the ice. The water is low enough where the box can be removed and put back up. The duck boxes in Grater Woods (lower ponds) are higher than usual (water low), which will make it more difficult to view some of the boxes.

Vice Chair Boisvert is aware of the placement of the duck boxes in Grater Woods and believes he is aware of the locations in the Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP). He suggested two members could go to each property. Commissioner Perry spoke of a map that identifies the locations. Commissioners Perry and

Drouin will address the boxes at the HHNP and Vice Chair Boisvert and Commissioner Starr will address those at Grater Woods on Saturday.

Asked about a mapping layer that could be used to pinpoint the locations, Commissioner Starr suggested a printed satellite image of the map with locations mapped as well as a GEO location would be helpful in the process.

#### **4. Parks & Rec. - 2021 Winter Carnival**

Chair Perkins noted the event takes place during the February school vacation. The last discussion ended with a consensus that the Commission would opt out of participation this year. He questioned if the will of the Commission differed at this time.

Commissioner Glenn commented on participation over the past three years. It is a hands-on event and one she agrees with foregoing this year.

#### **5. B&M Rail Trail Concept**

Commissioner Tenhave stated the desire to provide information on a possible project. The Commission owns a parcel of land, which was formerly part of the B&M Railroad, and some 90-100 years ago a railroad followed it. When the railroad stopped using it, snowmobilers used it to crisscross the State.

Maps from the Merrimack GIS system were displayed to provide better identification of the location. There is a parcel that used to be the old railroad bed that goes between Woodward Road and Lawrence Road. Down off of Stowell Road, there was a railroad station where passengers could board the trains in the early 1900s.

A paved area services the transfer station, further back is the old hill, and further west it travels out into the sticks. It would be hard to tell there was a railbed there, but there are aspects of it present. In the area where the asphalt stops, it becomes a path that follows a corridor (Town owned) all the way out to Woodward Road. A few years ago, the Town Council provided a landowner use of the area for their own driveway, but the agreement stipulates that people are allowed to walk on the area as it remains Town owned.

Baboosic Brook runs through the area. There are remnants of an old trestle where the train used to cross Baboosic Brook and abutments on each side (no longer a bridge).

He identified a parcel that, if purchased (from B&M, which is presently Pan Am Railroad) could be utilized to create a rail trail. Pan Am is in the process of being bought out; likely by CSX Transportation. Pan Am also owns the rail that goes from downtown Nashua out to Milford, which is being proposed as a potential Souhegan Rail Trail to go from downtown Nashua and eventually all the way out to Wilton.

The parcel in question is pretty much woods now. You can tell there was a railbed there, but it is not utilized except as the backyard of those living along this path. If owning the parcel, one could theoretically pick-up Parkhurst Road, come all the way across the brook and out to Lawrence Road, across Lawrence Road to a parcel also owned by the Town, and then it would take you into the Town of Bedford.

There is a long parcel off of Lawrence Road that goes all the way out to Jenkins Road and continues to be owned by the railway. The Town of Bedford has been looking to purchase that land. The Town of Bedford

also owns a lot of the other land parcels in the area, and Watkins Forest, which is partially in Merrimack and also in the area.

If taken all the way out to Jenkins Road, there would be an area a little more than 2 miles from Parkhurst out to Jenkins, which could create a 4-5-mile loop. There are some great water features in the area, and there would likely be the need to create a footpath and bridges (fairly wet in some areas). The Bedford Conservation Commission and Town of Bedford own some of the land. Theoretically, the Town of Bedford owns additional land past Jenkins, but it is believed most of the land is owned by condominium associations.

He spoke of different groups that might be interested in partnering in such an endeavor, e.g., Bedford Conservation Commission, New England Mountain Bike Association.

Commissioner Perry noted the section that goes through the transfer station is gated. Commissioner Tenhave stated the need to negotiate with the Town as to how they would like to manage it. There would be some concern with people wandering up through the old landfill, and we would have to be careful of that. Signage can be helpful. There is also private property and the need to be respectful of the private landowner.

Asked if any contact has occurred with Pan Am, Commissioner Tenhave stated he has spoken to Karin Elmer, Planner, Town of Bedford who serves with him on the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) and is a Merrimack resident. She has been involved in the discussions with the railroad. He suggested, if interested, reaching out to CSX. Through his contacts with the NRPC, he is aware there has already been an outreach along the Nashua corridor all the way out to Milford with a similar idea and concept.

## **6. Dog leash discussion**

Chair Perkins noted concerns brought forward to the Town Council regarding dogs off-leash in Grater Woods. The Town Council thanked the individual for coming forward and elected not to enact any kind of additional dog leash ordinances.

Commissioner Tenhave commented issues with dogs on Commission properties have come up a few times. Merrimack does have a dog ordinance, which requires that the owner keep the animal under control. There are two other areas of the Town Code that address dog control and leash. In Chapter 142, which covers the recreational parks, there is a leash law that requires that dogs not just be under control but on a leash or in a cage. Being in a park situation, those parcels tend to have more people there all the time, some are actively patrolled, but not every parcel that is covered by it. Chapter 111, Conservation, which covers the 5 or 6 parcels that are currently listed, has the same language.

When the Chapter 111 update was made, it included a suggestion to remove the leash requirement given concerns around it being difficult to enforce. It could remain and be used should a problem arise. However, if experiencing problems, there are other avenues the police could take.

Noted was that individuals who encounter a problem with animals on conservation properties should report it. If it turns out there are enough reports, then perhaps the Town would take a different stance.

Commissioner Drouin questioned the nature of the complaint to the Town Council. Vice Chair Boisvert spoke of the individual having a few dogs and frustration with other dogs not on leash or owner controlled.

Vice Chair Boisvert commented on it not being an uncommon situation for dogs to come running up to others on a trail. Most times they are friendly, but he can see how that could become an issue for another dog owner trying to control their dog(s).

Commissioner Tenhave commented perhaps with the advent of a Conservation Officer, if that position makes it through the budget process, there may be more opportunities to help educate users of the trails as to what under control really means.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Grater Woods by-pass trail**

*Tabled 11-16-20*

Commissioner Tenhave noted he asked for the agenda item just to see if there is the appetite to move forward with the project even if having to fully fund it. During the last discussion, he had suggested that it could be combined with a forestry project to offset some of the costs. There was some concern expressed around whether a forestry project is needed or the right thing to do.

If this is a project the Commission is wanting to move forward with, efforts should begin to locate someone who can manage the project, draft an RFP, and look to get it on a project list for this season.

Vice Chair Boisvert asked for clarification that the road improvement and bypass would improve the road from the gate going out to Grater Road up to the bypass area where it goes around the pond and then bypass around the pond to the Class 6 road on the other side. Commissioner Tenhave stated that to be correct; just beyond the gate on the other side.

Vice Chair Boisvert remarked he could not support something like the Gateway Trail but could support a design like the Red Maple Trail. Commissioner Tenhave stated it is essentially to provide emergency access. We want to be able to know that we can get the forestry truck out there. Asked if the Class 6 road that comes in from Wilson Hill Road up to the point where it meets our gate, can be traversed with that type of vehicle, he stated it was improved to do the logging situation on the donut property. Vice Chair Boisvert remarked if doing improvements from Grater Road to the bypass area then we would have a road coming in from each side, just not connected by the bypass going around the pond. There would not be the impact of going around the pond, having to go to the uplands to put a road in and going around for a ¼ mile just to connect the two ends.

Vice Chair Boisvert spoke of the access from Amherst. He often runs into the property owner at the end of Grater Road. He is responsible for maintaining the section of road up until the point of pavement (below parking lot in Amherst). When told the Commission is considering this project, he stated concern with a logging truck or similarly large vehicle being brought in that way. Should a logging project be considered, permission from the Town of Amherst would be needed to utilize that entrance. That may influence the decision of the Commission with regard to which end to enter through and a decision around logging, which Vice Chair Boisvert stated he does not support.

Commissioner Perry noted the Commission purposely started the gate project with the intent of putting a bypass in there because we blocked off access to one of the motorized trails. We seem to be going back around a decision that was already made. The intent around access to the back side coming up from South Grater Road was to have emergency vehicles able to gain access to get to the back side of that property.

Vice Chair Boisvert remarked he takes no issue with a Red Maple type of road installed there. He does take issue with a logging project, which would change the character of that area.

Chair Perkins stated the idea of tying this in with a logging project was introduced because of the financial benefit of doing so. Commissioner Tenhave added that and the recommendation of the Forester a number of years ago, to do a project in that area in order to improve the habitat.

Commissioner Perry stated the previous Forester was very proactive about logging to get rid of some of the less developed trees and ensure a strong crop for the period (20 years) before logging again to make the wood valuable so you could have an offsetting logging schedule and not really impact the attractiveness of the forest.

Vice Chair Boisvert commented he has lived in Merrimack for 40 years. Grater Woods was logged some 20-25 years before he moved to Town. He saw the growth of the forest into something much more enjoyable until the forestry project happened (15 years prior), and drastically changed the character. There is logging that has been going on for the Blood Road development, plus the logging by the donut hole. There is tons of logging all around Grater Woods.

Commissioner Perry noted there is clearcutting being done for a development. Commissioner Tenhave remarked if there is no appetite for a forestry project, he does not object. His real concern is that of safety and being able to manage that portion of Commission property. The Commission owns a good deal of land near there as does the Town of Amherst. Were a forest fire to break out there it could really get well established before it could be knocked down. Twelve years ago, we saw what a fire did in Wildcat Falls; within a matter of minutes a number of acres burned near the powerlines. Fortunately, we were able to get vehicles out there and manage it.

Commissioner Perry suggested it to be worthwhile to have a Forester walk the area to provide a recommendation (would a forestry project be revenue producing and offset the cost).

Chair Perkins agreed there is no harm in seeking an opinion. Vice Chair Boisvert stated the Forester would provide feedback based on trying to make a healthy forest and gaining production out of it. That is not the way he wants to look at Grater Woods. He would like to see more growth. He believes there would be a lot of flack from the public if a logging project were proposed for that area.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO HIRE A FORESTER, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$400.00), TO DO AN EVALUATION OF THE WEST SIDE OF GRATER WOODS ALONG THE SOUTH GRATER ROAD AND PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION WHETHER OR NOT A FOREST PROJECT IS DESIRABLE FOR ECOLOGICAL REASONS. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS FUND 53**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY CHAIR PERKINS**

#### ON THE QUESTION

Commissioner Perry questioned if the project would include a review of the area where the road would be placed to provide an idea of the timber value or any other value where cutting would have to occur.

Commissioner Tenhave stated that should be included as part of the evaluation.

*A Viva Voce Roll Call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:*

Yea: Chair Perkins, Commissioner Glenn, Commissioner Perry, Commissioner Tenhave

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Nay: Vice-Chair Boisvert, Commissioner Starr, Commissioner Drouin

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### **MOTION CARRIED**

Commissioner Perry volunteered to contact the Forester, Bay State. They have the forestry plans that they can leverage.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Discussion on communications or correspondence received concerning regulated Commission activities and any issues concerning Commission managed lands.
2. Sub-Committee Updates

### **PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES**

Merrimack Conservation Commission. . . . . [December 7, 2020](#)

*The following amendments were offered:*

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO TABLE UNTIL THE BOARD'S NEXT  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING  
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GLENN**

*A Viva Voce Roll Call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:*

Yea: Chair Perkins, Vice-Chair Boisvert, Commissioner Glenn, Commissioner Perry,  
Commissioner Starr, Commissioner Tenhave, Commissioner Drouin

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Nay: 0

### **MOTION CARRIED**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Vice-Chair Boisvert noted flagging (blue/orange ribbon) off of the Skyline Trail in Grater Woods and questioned the purpose. There is also some towards the Gateway Trail and the school. Commissioner Tenhave noted part of the Skyline Trail goes off of Commission property.

Vice Chair Boisvert will contact Director Fox concerning the availability of reground material and the possibility of locating some onto the Sklar property to create a parking area and improve the access to turn in.

Commissioner Glenn noted the meeting schedule has been uploaded to the Merrimack Outdoors calendar. At this time, all meetings are listed as virtual.

Commissioner Starr spoke of coming across hunters during the walk of Grater Woods and reminded users of the trails to have their dogs on a lease or ensure they stand out, e.g., orange, bell, when walking in the woods.

Commissioner Tenhave spoke of having reviewed the 2 conservation funds. Paul Micali, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director, and his staff were able to uncover the Town meeting proceedings that created them. He thought it might be a good ten-minute discussion, at the next meeting, to review how those funds were created and what the intent of the voters was.

Commissioner Tenhave commented it appears our meetings will continue to be held virtually for some time, and that the sub-committees will not be permitted to meet. He suggested the Commission reach out to each of the sub-committees and include one of them on each of the upcoming agendas until we return to in-person meetings. That means that every month and a half the sub-committee should have an opportunity to have a meeting. A half hour block could be dedicated as a joint sub-committee/Commission meeting.

The Commission agreed with conducting joint meetings until the sub-committees are able to return to meeting.

Commissioner Drouin commented on it being a great idea especially to be able to get the first meeting of the Sklar Waterfront Park Sub-committee on the books.

### **TABLED**

1. Discussion and vote to re-treat the invasive Knotweed that is taking hold again on property off of Brookside Drive. This will require a licensed applicator.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO ADJOURN**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GLENN**

*A Viva Voce Roll Call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:*

Yea: Chair Perkins, Vice-Chair Boisvert, Commissioner Glenn, Commissioner Perry,  
Commissioner Starr, Commissioner Tenhave, Commissioner Drouin

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Nay:

0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The January 25, 2021 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan