



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department
6 Baboosic Lake Road
Town Hall - Lower level - East Wing

603 424-3531
Fax 603 424-1408
www.merrimacknh.gov

Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION JULY 20, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Matt Caron, Chair, presided:

Members of the Commission Participating: Steven Perkins, Vice Chair
Gina Rosati, Secretary
Michael Boisvert
Cynthia Glenn
Gage Perry (participation began at 6:48 p.m.)
Eric Starr, Alternate Member
Tim Tenhave, Alternate Member
Councilor Peter Albert

Members of the Commission Absent: Michael Swisher, Alternate member

Also Participating: Dan Tinkham, Sr. Consultant, Emery & Garrett
Michael Drouin, 3 Drouin Way

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 being aired live on Merrimack TV (Channel 20) and the Merrimack TV Facebook Live page (<http://www.facebook.com/merrimacktv>). 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: 915 8133 5361).

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: ConservationCommission@MerrimackNH.Gov.

Commissioners were participating via Zoom. In accordance with [RSA 91-A:2 III](#), Each member of the Commission 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.

Commissioner Rosati

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.

Vice 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.

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 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.

Councilor Albert

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.

Chair Caron

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 Caron designated Eric Starr to sit for Gage Perry.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

APPOINTMENTS - None

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Meeting of the Commission

- Commission to review its by-laws and see if any changes are necessary

Vice Chair Perkins suggested Article III C – Minutes, be amended to state “Minutes of all public and non-public meetings shall be completed in accordance with NH [RSA 91-A](#).”

MOTION BY COUNCILOR ALBERT TO AMEND ARTICLE III C – MINUTES TO READ “MINUTES OF ALL PUBLIC AND NON-PUBLIC MEETINGS SHALL BE COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NH RSA 91-A.”

MOTION SECONDED BY CHAIR PERKINS

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

Yea: Councilor Albert, Commissioner Perkins, Commissioner Rosati, Commissioner Boisvert,
Commissioner Glenn, Eric Starr, Commissioner Caron

7

Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

- Commission to hold its annual election for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary

Chair Caron called for nominations for Chairperson of the Merrimack Conservation Commission for the 2020-2021 term.

COMMISSIONER ROSATI NOMINATED COMMISSIONER PERKINS FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIRPERSON AND HERSELF FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY SECONDED BY CHAIR CARON

ON THE QUESTION

Commissioner Perkins expressed a willingness to serve in this capacity.

Commissioner Rosati noted Commissioner Swisher currently serves as an alternate member. She would like to nominate him for the position of Vice Chair contingent upon his appointment as a full member. Commissioner Tenhave suggested postponing action on the position of Vice Chairperson so as to ensure adherence to the bylaws.

VOTE ON ELECTION OF STEVE PERKINS TO THE POSITION OF CHAIRPERSON AND GINA ROSATI TO THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF THE MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE 2020-2021 TERM

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

Yea: Commissioner Perkins, Commissioner Starr, Commissioner Boisvert, Commissioner Glenn,
Councilor Albert, Commissioner Tenhave, Commissioner Rosati, Commissioner Caron

8

Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

*Steve Perkins declared Chairperson of the Merrimack Conservation Commission for the 2020-2021 term.
Gina Rosati declared Secretary of the Merrimack Conservation Commission for the 2020-2021 term.*

Commissioner Perry

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.

2. Merrimack Village District – Well exploration at Wasserman Conservation Area

A copy of the communication from Jill Lavoie, Business Manager/Water Quality Testing, Merrimack Village District, is attached.

Dan Tinkham, Sr. Consultant, Emery & Garrett, remarked the Merrimack Village District (MVD) is currently undergoing an exploration program at the Naticook Brook Aquifer. That includes the area of Well #3 on the east side of Greens Pond. As part of that program, they have identified a favorable area they would like to test on the west side of Greens Pond, which lands on the northern end of Wasserman Park. The intent is for a test well location on the very northeastern corner of the property (approx. 50' off the shore of the lake). They would have to track in from the main part of Wasserman Park and come almost down to the shore and head up one of the existing trails until reaching the far end of the property. Drilling is expected to take 1 - 1½ days to complete. At the conclusion, if everything goes well, they will put in a small monitoring well (likely 3" diameter, PVC). It would stick up in the air some 2'. They would return later to pump it and take water quality samples to gauge the productivity of the aquifer at that location. The intent is to identify the most favorable areas for a future production well.

Once the initial information is obtained, they would work with the MVD and come back before the Commission to provide an update on the results and next steps.

Commissioner Perry questioned the strength of the PVC that would protrude the surface. Mr. Tinkham stated the well is made of PVC (3" in diameter). A 4" diameter steel protective casing would surround it (standpipe), which will have a lock and cap at the top. Some people like to paint them bright orange so they can be seen, and others like to camouflage them. It will be located probably 80' off the nearest trail.

A track machine would be used, which would create parallel ridges going across the trail that would probably remain until the next rain storm. When the tracks turn they dig up dirt. Those areas would be raked out to be returned to their initial condition.

Councilor Albert asked for clarification they would enter Wasserman Park and follow the fitness trail route to get to the area of drilling, and was told that is accurate. Councilor Albert questioned, if finding the location to be favorable for a well, would placement of a well include construction of a structure and roadway. Mr. Tinkham responded if it went to a production well site then yes it would require vehicular access, and a building close by (control building). There are a number of ways to handle that; could pipe it across to the existing well 3 or go north to Greens Pond Road across the Fish & Game parcel. That parcel would be impacted by what they call the sanitary protective area (400' radius around well where no activity can occur other than those related to the withdrawal of water). There would have to be negotiations at that point with Fish & Game to say they would not be able to use the land. Most likely they would want to secure an easement across that property right up to Greens Pond Road and tie into the existing

infrastructure in that direction. There would be some kind of a cement pad, probably an electric panel at the wellhead and a small building within 200' or so.

Councilor Albert questioned if above-ground power would have to be run to the building, and was told it could be below-ground. In this case, he would assume it would be under ground. They would have to make a proposal to the Commission in regard to their intention/design. That is a long way down the road. Right now it is a matter of getting onsite and conducting the tests. If it is not deep enough or the materials are not favorable enough, the discussion would turn to whether to leave the well there permanently as a water quality monitoring point. They are drilling in at least 4 other locations.

Noted was the restrictive covenants on the property; Section 3L of the covenants allows for the production of water from the site and considers trying to keep things underground, etc. A typical well structure is 15' x 15'. That can vary a lot depending on how far you want to run the electronic controls, etc. At the wellhead it would likely just be a steel facing sticking up out of the ground some 12-16" in diameter, the large wellhead, and right next to it an electric panel so you could turn off the power for maintenance. The road would have to be accessible year round. Whatever the ultimate egress is into the property would have to be passable. If it goes off to the north, the road might be able to come from the north on Greens Pond Road rather than a very long road all the way from Wasserman Park.

Asked if MVD is looking to be proactive or if the intent is to install another well as soon as a viable location is identified, Mr. Tinkham stated MVD is definitely looking for more sources of water. There are a lot of concerns in Town around water quality. They are always looking for an alternative source where they can put a production well. One reason being the aging infrastructure. These wells are getting up to their design life; do you replace it in the exact same spot or try to find a better spot. Certainly, Wasserman Park offers a level of protection that we do not have with the other sites, which is very favorable.

Asked if restrictions are foreseen relative to recreation in the area of the wellhead, Mr. Tinkham responded within this sanitary protective area recreation like hiking is allowed. Motorized recreation is not allowed. Things like logging are an issue. They basically want to keep it in as close to its natural state as possible.

Asked if Wasserman would be considered a better location than Mitchell Woods, Mr. Tinkham responded not necessarily than Mitchell Woods. It has the potential to be more productive from a water standpoint, but Mitchell Woods is very well protected and has tested very well over the year. They are excited to be able to put that online. It is not a very large aquifer. For MVD a lot of their wells are very productive, and Mitchell Woods is kind of a small/peak shaving well. They can use it and get so many tens of millions of gallons out of the ground in a year and then you have to stop. The hope is that Wasserman Park would be on the same scale as MVD 3 across Greens Pond, which is a very productive well in the order of hundreds of gallons/minute.

Commissioner Tenhave suggested the Commission vote on whether there is support for moving forward with this, and then leave it open for the MVD to let Parks and Recreation and the Community Development Department know of their timeline as well as provide notification to the Commission.

Councilor Albert stated the desire to be informed of the direction/route that would be taken to access the location and assurances there will be minimal alteration to the terrain.

**MOTION BY COUNCILOR ALBERT TO AUTHORIZE THE MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT TO ACCESS THE WASSERMAN PARK CONSERVATION AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF WELL EXPLORATION, CONTINGENT UPON PRIOR NOTICE BEING PROVIDED DETAILING THE ROUTE THAT WILL BE TAKEN TO ACCESS THE AREA, AND MINIMAL ALTERATION TO THE ENVIRONMENT
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOISVERT**

ON THE QUESTION

Chair Caron noted there are steep slopes in both directions that could be used to access the site. Mr. Tinkham reiterated they would likely follow the fitness trail all the way from the park down close to the lake. At the very end they would likely have to get off trail and go through the brush for 150-200'. He stated the route could be provided in advance.

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

Yea: Commissioner Perkins, Commissioner Boisvert, Commissioner Glenn, Councilor Albert,
Commissioner Perry, Commissioner Caron

6

Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Rosati Abstained

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mike Caristi – private group run at Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP)

The consensus of the Commission was to table the matter until additional information can be provided and/or Mr. Caristi is available to participate in the discussion.

2. Michael Drouin – Hike Merrimack

Mr. Drouin commented on the program formed in Hudson to make the public aware of what Hudson has to offer in regard to conservation properties. Groups would participate in hikes throughout the property and learn of its history and the actions of the commission. One of the benefits derived came about during election time when the public had awareness of projects being proposed by the commission requiring voter approval.

In Merrimack, the intent would be the education element to inform participants of the history of the property, plant and animal life, potential problems with pollution, etc. Hikes would not be conducted until the pandemic has ended.

Asked if a formal proposal is on hold, Mr. Drouin responded although program approval could be considered, even if approved, no hikes would be conducted until it is safe to do so.

Chair Caron spoke of being supportive of the activity noting the educational aspect is in concert with the Commission's mission. He agreed the time is not now.

Councilor Albert stated support for the program, and questioned who would be utilized to provide the education. Mr. Drouin commented that in Hudson they utilized members of their conservation commission. Initially, he would be in that position as a hike guide.

Commissioner Perry asked for clarification of what was being requested understanding what has been presented is the idea of a private group participating in hikes on the property. He was uncertain what was required of the Commission in support of the activity.

Mr. Drouin stated he did not believe there was any particular request of the Commission noting nothing was requested of the Hudson commission beyond volunteers to participate in the hikes. He questioned permitting requirements if exceeding a particular threshold of participation. Commissioner Perry spoke of other private groups in Town that organize events on conservation land.

Commissioner Tenhave suggested there be some coordination with the group as there could be occasions where the parking lot is in use for other events.

Chair Caron stated the desire for the Commission to be made aware of event dates. Mr. Drouin spoke of the practice used in Hudson whereby they provide a schedule with ample notice. Asked how notice would be provided the public, Mr. Drouin spoke of a Facebook page and town groups.

Chair Caron spoke of looking forward to the restrictions being lifted and the first Hike Merrimack.

3. Sklar Waterfront

Commissioner Rosati shared a photograph of the truckload of trash that was recently removed by a resident. Commissioner Boisvert remarked there have been two large clean-up events, and dumping continues. There is the need for some kind of enforcement around the issue of dumping and four-wheel traffic.

Until that occurs, it will be difficult to work towards developing the property, e.g., trails. He questioned if the Town remains interested in using the property as access for an improved boat ramp. Councilor Albert stated the boat ramp by the wastewater treatment plant is no longer an option. He continues to believe the Sklar Park, with some improvements, would be a good location with an improved boat ramp and some kind of barriers along the roadway to discourage four-wheel vehicles. He questioned the will of the Commission relative to the boat ramp. Commissioner Boisvert remarked the ramp is on Town property, which seems conducive for that use. Chair Caron commented if it means more of a police presence in the area, he would be in favor. Councilor Albert suggested it could be helpful to send a communication from the Commission to the Police Chief, copying the Town Council and Town Manager, regarding the problem.

Commissioner Boisvert noted he met with the Conservation Officer on the property back in March. He was well aware of the problem. In his opinion, since the signs were posted, the traffic decreased tenfold. He stated he would try to keep a better eye on the place, but he is one person responsible for a lot of territory.

Commissioner Perry spoke of the rocks that have been pushed aside and broken posts. That is not happening by accident. Chair Caron noted every time he has been in the area this spring/summer, there has been a motorized vehicle on posted property. There is more and more trash with every visit.

When asked, Commissioner Tenhave commented during his last canoe trip from Depot Street to Greeley Park, he witnessed a lot of activity. Asked if there is concern Sklar will turn into the next Wildcat Falls as far as people entering with beer, lawn chairs, etc., Commissioner Tenhave stated his impression people are doing that currently. It probably looks a lot more like Watson Park especially those who enter Watson Park and walk out towards the Merrimack River. When he canoed down a number of weeks ago, there were quite a few people who apparently had entered from Watson Park. Both areas seem to be well used in general, but certainly a number of folks in both properties at the time he went through (10-15 people in small groups).

Commissioner Boisvert spoke of the helpless feeling having volunteer groups participate in a massive cleanup project only to have the littering continue. Commissioner Rosati commented once the property becomes more utilized, that kind of behavior should subside. Unfortunately, at this time, the atmosphere is not conducive to that. Commissioner Rosati suggested the forming of a sub-committee, creating of maps, etc. will go a long way in that regard.

The Commission discussed individuals who have expressed an interest in serving on a sub-committee. There is the need to put together a proposal for a sub-committee, request volunteers, and go through the appointment process. The suggestion was that a draft Charge be prepared for consideration at the next meeting.

Commissioner Glenn questioned the ability of blocking the property from vehicles. Commissioner Perry stated that could not occur because of the boat ramp. Chair Caron noted the property to be that of the Town. Those kind of decisions would have to be made by the Town Council.

Councilor Albert spoke of the Council's awareness of issues at other conservation properties, commenting Sklar Park has not come up in discussion. Individuals who are reaching out to the Commission with concerns should also forward those concerns to the Town Council. He will bring the issue up with the Town Manager and Council. Perhaps staff could get onto the property to view what is occurring.

Commissioner Boisvert will communicate with Chief Roy regarding these issues, and will reach out to the Conservation Officer and make him aware of ongoing activity.

Asked about the prior use of a camera, Chair Caron noted he and Mark Twardosky made a report to the police of jeeps in the area. The individuals left before police arrived. They made the police aware of the concerns and that the camera should have captured them and the license plates of the jeeps. The officer indicated he would take it to his superior and we would hear back with the results of their findings. There was never any follow-up. The camera belongs to the Police Department.

The Commission has two cameras. Commissioner Boisvert noted the need for proof such as photos. Councilor Albert remarked you can see a car come and go, but you have to be able to put them committing the violation. Chair Caron noted the incident he was referring to was with an individual who was shooting, which resulted in Mr. Twardosky calling the police. Chair Caron happened to be riding his bike through and heard the shooting and the ATVs in the dirt. There were dirt bikes he was following down the railroad tracks that went in there. When he got there, Mr. Twardosky was talking about shooting and the jeeps. When the jeep came out it was completely covered in mud. The road in was completely dry so they were clearly somewhere that was posted as the rocks had just been put in and signage up. They had been doing something wrong and were on camera. Councilor Albert commented when we have instances like that we need to press for follow-up.

4. Chapter 111 – addition of any changes based on current events

Commissioner Tenhave commented he requested this item be put on the agenda understanding he is scheduled to present the Chapter 111 updates to the Town Council on August 20th. Councilor Koenig had suggested that could be delayed for a period to allow the Commission to consider recent events and determine if there may be modifications the Commission wished to make before providing its recommendation to the Council.

The Commission was provided with the latest update to Chapter 111, the PowerPoint that was used at the Public Hearing, list of current restrictions, and the restrictions proposed for the different property types.

Commissioner Perry was uncertain what would be changed in regard to restrictions as a result of the pandemic. He asked if there were examples of actions that could be recommended. Commissioner Tenhave responded he did not have an example; believe most of the unappreciated behaviors that were witnessed are covered in this or another chapter. He simply wished to utilize the opportunity to have the discussion. Commissioner Rosati questioned if the Commission could mandate what occurs in the Souhegan River. Councilor Albert spoke of learning that areas within the river are the responsibility of the Souhegan Watershed Association.

Discussed was that the signage at Wildcat Falls states “swim at your own risk”. Councilor Albert suggested a sign could go up saying no jumping off the rocks, but that does not mean the behavior would stop. He stated he could see if there is interest on the part of the Town Council for such signage.

Asked about the fine for people who bring alcohol and glass onto the property, Commissioner Tenhave stated the current wording in the Chapter says that it adheres to the RSA that allows us to have a violation, which therefore says that a fine up to \$1,000 can be levied. Typically that is decided in a court of law.

The consensus of the Commission was to present the current recommendations to the Town Council.

5. Wildcat Falls Conservation Area – clean up

Andrew Duane, Member, Wildcat Falls Sub-committee, spoke of the information provided the Commission. The desire was to provide the ideas of the Sub-committee on the re-opening of the area and a secure long-term future for the park. The immediate problem of parking along Currier Road and in the neighborhood is something they would like to address and identify a long-term solution for.

The Sub-committee would like to express the personal interest in remaining involved in the decisions occurring in Wildcat Falls. They were a little blindsided by the closure of the park, and then found out about the large clean-up crew that was organized by someone on the Town Council. He found out about it by a friend reading the Merrimack Facebook page.

Commissioner Perry stated the cleanup day was conducted by the Merrimack Litter Group, which went before the Town Council to request permission to go onto the property. It was not put together by the Town Council.

Mr. Duane commented the Sub-committee would have liked to have been aware and would have volunteered to help. The suggestions put forward include:

Reopen the Currier Road parking lot, but with improved signage. At the park entrance a sign asking visitors to "please respect our neighborhood and do not park on the street" coupled with (enforced) no parking signage on the street. Information about other areas to visit could also be provided. The residents should help guide this.

Although it may seem counter-intuitive, a modest expansion of the parking lot would help ease the pressure to park on the street. There have been proposals made in the past, most of which would not noticeably alter the footprint of the parking area but would allow for a few more cars to park. This could be coupled with the parking lot resurfacing approved last year.

The kiosk area can be improved. Returning the trash can would help with the carry-in/carry-out requirement. Improved signage asking for cooperation can also be placed there.

Councilor Albert stated the agenda for the upcoming Town Council meeting includes public hearings on proposed ordinances regarding parking and fines. He spoke of the email he forwarded to the Commission relative to the legal opinion received regarding residents only for the park and parking. It is not quite as simple as you would think as some of the land has come from the State having specific Deed language.

Mr. Duane remarked one thing that was brought up was the ability to have part of the parking at Wasserman Park residents only, and the question of whether that is possible because it is managed by the Parks and Recreation Department rather than the Commission.

Councilor Albert noted much like we do at Wasserman, we can set aside X number of spaces for residents only, we just cannot set the whole parking lot up for Merrimack residents only.

Mr. Duane spoke of enforcement that would be required to accommodate that kind of an arrangement. Councilor Albert stated agreement with the need for an enforcement strategy. He will bring forward to the Town Council Retreat consideration of a Conservation Officer position.

Mr. Duane noted another concern that was brought forward by the neighborhood is that they are against a parking ban along the street as their visitors cannot park there. One of the longer term solutions was either in addition to or instead of repairing the pedestrian bridge across the Souhegan over at West Chamberlain, we could put one next to the ballfields, which is Town property off West Chamberlain Road. The problem with the existing pedestrian bridge or the high school, which denied access, is that is really away from the main area of the park and requires a long walk to get there.

Councilor Albert noted he and Councilor Boyd met with the Town Manager to discuss a pedestrian bridge. The PWD Director provided a rough estimate of \$1.2 million to go across that area. They are looking for grant funding for the replacement of the Merrill's Marauders foot bridge, which will cost in the area of \$660,000. He likes the idea. He will bring the idea to the PWD and see if he were to get the grant could it be turned towards a footbridge over by the ballfields. The big gravel parking lot is perfect.

Commissioner Tenhave remarked when the Merrill's Marauders bridge was replaced and the pedestrian bridge discussed, he was on the Town Council. Keith Hickey, he and the Merrill's Marauders bridge committee that was in place suggested looking at a pedestrian bridge, which lead to the one we had. That happened because we could include the permitting of the bridge in the whole highway bridge replacement. The abutments could all be installed at the same time and all of the impacts to wetlands as well as the riverbank could all be managed within the realm of the highway bridge, which reduced the cost

significantly to allow that bridge to happen. We purchased that bridge for an amount around \$20,000 as long as we removed it from its original location and brought it to its new location.

Chair Caron noted the Town was awarded a DOT grant to put a pedestrian walkway underneath the D.W. Highway to connect Watson Park to the high school trail, which then would go under the F.E. Everett to Wildcat Falls. He is uncertain where that stands. Commissioner Tenhave noted Kyle Fox, Director, PWD, has indicated the project is moving forward and the hope, with funding is, they can initiate in the next buildable year. The caution with that is that Watson Park has limited parking and really does not meet the needs of the current use of the park never mind having people use that to access Wildcat Falls. That is what drove us to look at the high school as an option. The current thinking from the school district is they would like to include any planning for that kind of access with their overall masterplan they had put on their warrant. He believes that warrant article passed. As they get into their masterplan for the high school property, the Commission should make sure they actively participate in the planning for access to the trail system.

Mr. Duane stated members of the Sub-committee would be in favor of providing any labor needed to improve the trails from the high school area to help with that effort.

Commissioner Rosati commented on discussion of a clean-up day to cut back some of the trails. She wished to publicly thank the Michael LoVerme Foundation, which has been very quietly helping maintain Wildcat Falls.

Paul Marone, 29 Currier Road

Commented on the need the neighborhood had for the relief it was given. It has been very peaceful and quiet, and they truly appreciate the temporary assistance.

He reminded everyone as we think about long-term solutions, one of the major challenges faced is volume of traffic. He is pleased with the discussion of resident only parking. With regard to on-street parking, the real challenge is from April to October. Limiting the parking restriction to that time period might alleviate some of the challenges with visitors.

Councilor Albert spoke of three ordinances being worked on by the Town Council, which could directly affect that neighborhood. He requested Mr. Marone encourage his neighbors to send emails and/or attend the public hearings to provide input.

Mr. Marone commented on having heard the conservation property referred to as a park. He questioned if there is a difference in the eyes of the Commission. Commissioner Tenhave stated the property was purchased by the Town for \$1 in 1970, and in the Deed, it says the property was conveyed to us for recreation and park purposes. In 1984 when the Town adopted Chapter 111, this property was placed into Chapter 111, which is the conservation chapter within the Town Code. Certain restrictions were put on the property as it was put in Chapter 111. It kind of has a mixed view. At the time, and it has been revaluated as each chapter gets looked at, to be a conservation property. It has a dual purpose; one placed by the State when it was deeded, and one placed by the residents of Merrimack when they voted at a Town meeting.

Commissioner Rosati stated she would be requesting permission for the Wildcat Falls Sub-committee and anyone else who would like to join, to enter the property Sunday July 26, 2020 at 12:30 p.m. for a clean-up day that will consist of clearing of trails, checking for erosion, checking shoreline, etc. She spoke of signs she could provide for different entrances.

She spoke of the need to clear the North Loop. Commissioner Tenhave suggested areas around the north loop be looked at in regard to erosion. The main trail that takes you to Wildcat Falls should be looked at to see if people created any offshoots to get into it.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Commissioner Tenhave commented if he were to provide an observation about the traffic and parking he would say the Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP) is back to its pre-COVID normal for this time of year. A clean-up was recently conducted by the Litter Group.

Commissioner Boisvert stated his belief some of the increased traffic that has been seen at Grater Woods during the pandemic will stay. There is definitely more pedestrian and bike traffic.

Councilor Albert noted the Town Council would conduct its Retreat in August. Discussions will include past goals and goals for the upcoming year. He requested the Commission make him aware of any item(s) they would like to be discussed.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

Merrimack Conservation Commission – **Special** June 22, 2020

The following amendments were offered:

- Page 1, Line 23; correct the spelling of “Keurian”
- Page 3, Line 40; insert a period following “site” and replace “is” with “will be”
- Page 3, Line 41; insert “and” before “a drive-thru”
- Page 4, Line 11; replace “manufacture” with “manufacturer”
- Page 4, Line 32; correct the spelling of “Yew”
- Page 5; the motion on Item #2 was made before the motion on Item #1
- Page 5, Line 15; delete “Commissioner”
- Page 6, Line 17; correct the spelling of “the”
- Page 6, Line 25; replace “duct” with “duck”
- Page 9, Line 38; replace “Marauder” with “Marauders”

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARON**

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

Yea: Commissioner Rosati, Commissioner Caron. Commissioner Perkins, Commissioner Boisvert,
Commissioner Glenn, Councilor Albert, Commissioner Perry

7

Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Perkins remarked he and Commissioners Boisvert and Glenn met with the Town Council Appointment Committee as their terms were up for renewal. Councilors Koenig and Boyd were generous in their praise and appreciation for the work the Commission did primarily with the Wildcat Falls recommendations.

Commissioner Perkins expressed gratitude to Matt Caron for all he has done for the Commission and community-at-large.

Commissioner Boisvert spoke of how missed Matt will be. He thanked him for all of the work he has done.

Commissioner Glenn echoed the remarks around how missed Matt will be and of gratitude for all he has done.

Councilor Albert spoke of the dedication and commitment Matt has provided the Commission.

Commissioner Tenhave commented on the many years he has had the opportunity to work with Matt. He spoke of the tremendous contribution he has made and the debt of gratitude that is owed him.

Commissioner Perry spoke of the outstanding friendship and comradery that will be missed.

Commissioner Starr commented it was his very first meeting when Matt was elected as Chair. He recalls that no one wanted the position, but Matt stepped up and has done a great job.

Commissioner Rosati remarked she will miss being able to work alongside him.

Commissioner Caron spoke of it having been a pleasure to serve with his colleagues on the Commission. He will be resigning following the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CARON TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PERRY**

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

Yea: Commissioner Rosati, Commissioner Caron, Commissioner Perkins, , Commissioner Boisvert,
Commissioner Glenn, Councilor Albert, Commissioner Perry

7

Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

The July 20, 2020 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.
Submitted by Dawn MacMillan

From: Jill Lavoie [jill.lavoie@mvdwater.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:59 AM
To: Tim Tenhave
Cc: ron.miner@mvdwater.org
Subject: New well exploration

Hi Tim,

The MVD has been searching for additional water sources throughout Merrimack. Our hydrogeologists have located an area of interest in Wasserman Park on Town owned property. The attached map shows the location of TW-7. The next step would be to drill a test well. A drill rig the size of a medium sized bulldozer would need access to the location. Depending on the depth, the rig would be on site for 1-2 days. The plan would be to access the area by following the path along the stream. The last 200-300' look a little tight so a few saplings may need to be removed. The path may show evidence of the weight of the drill rig. Any disturbances would be repaired to like condition.

All that being said, we're looking to gain approval from the Conservation Commission for the site work. The drill rig will be here next week to begin drilling at additional locations. If approved by the end of this week that would allow us to add it into the schedule and avoid having to remobilize the equipment at a later date.

Should you have questions or want to discuss the project please let me know.

Thanks
Jill

Jill Lavoie
Business Manager/Water Quality Testing

Merrimack Village District
2 Greens Pond Road
Merrimack, NH 03054
(603) 424-9241 x103