



TOWN COUNCIL – AGENDA REQUEST FORM

THIS FORM WILL BECOME PART OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION USED BY THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC

Please submit Agenda Request Form, **including back up information**, 8 days prior to the requested meeting date. **Public Hearing requests must be submitted 20 days prior to requested meeting date to meet publication deadlines** (exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager, Chairman/Vice Chair).

MEETING INFORMATION

Date Submitted: November 10, 2021
Submitted by: Robert Fregault
Department:
Speakers: Robert Fregault

Date of Meeting: November 18, 2021

Time Required: 20 minutes

Background Info. Supplied:

Yes: No:

CATEGORY OF BUSINESS (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Appointment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognition/Resignation/ Retirement:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Hearing:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Old Business:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Business:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonpublic:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

TITLE OF ITEM

Flying Eagles Field Enhancement Project Request [Tabled at the November 4, 2021 Town Council meeting]

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

The Town Council to consider The Flying Eagles' request to restore the field to its original open boundaries by removing a select number of trees located on the Town owned property on Caron / Griffin Street.

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

RSA:	Warrant Article:	_____
Charter Article:	Town Meeting:	_____
Other:	N/A	

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Projector:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easel:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Seating:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laptop:	<input type="checkbox"/>	None:	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	<u>Robert Fregault</u>	Address	_____
Phone Number	_____	Email Address	<u>rpfregault@gmail.com</u>

APPROVAL

Becky Thompson

From: Nelson Disco <ndisco3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Becky Thompson
Cc: fmurphy@shaheengordon.com; rpfregault@gmail.com; George May
Subject: Re: LMLAC Inquiry - Southern NH Flying Eagles Enhancement Project
Attachments: 211104 - Southern NH Flying Eagles FIELD RECLAMATION PROJECT.PPTX; ATT00001.htm; 211028 - Flying Field Enhancement Project.docx; ATT00002.htm; 210920 - MCC Minutes .pdf; ATT00003.htm; 211004 - MCC Minutes.pdf; ATT00004.htm

Becky,

Thank you for this message. Presently, I am a member of the LMLAC and Francis Murphy is Chairman. From what I can glean from the CC Minutes I would believe that the parcel being discussed falls within the jurisdictional area of the LMLAC and this body would be very interested in reviewing and commenting on the proposed plans. Please have the applicant (Flying Eagles Club) contact Mr Murphy to arrange an appointment with the LMLAC. Thank you,
Nelson

On Nov 10, 2021, at 10:31 AM, Becky Thompson <bthompson@merrimacknh.gov> wrote:

Hi Francis and Nelson,

Bob Fregault of the Southern NH Flying Eagles has been working with the Merrimack Conservation Commission and they have been before the Merrimack Town Council for their proposed enhancement project on Town-owned land located off of Griffin Street (Sklar Park).

During their meeting on November 4th, the Town Council tabled the item to be heard at their next regularly meeting scheduled for **Thursday, November 18th at 7:00 PM**, for the reasons that they need more information and input from our Community Development (Planning & Zoning), our Public Works Department, as well as from the NHDES regarding shoreline protection.

After their research, the following has been determined:

- No issues with Shoreland Protection as it is a 3rd order stream (Shoreland applies to 4th order or higher)
- No issues with SoRLAC as the work area is more than ¼ mile from the Souhegan River
- **Project is within ¼ mile of Merrimack River and so should be presented to LMLAC**
- An intent to cut permit may be required
- There may be some value in the trees – a forester could be consulted to make that determination
- No issues from zoning/planning

I'm emailing you to ask if you, as the Chair and member of the Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee, have any input on this proposed project? Would you require the group to present the LMLAC with their proposal?

Becky Thompson

From: Becky Thompson
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 10:26 AM
To: 'fmurphy@shaheengordon.com'; Nelson Disco - Town Center Committee
Cc: rpfregault@gmail.com
Subject: LMRLAC Inquiry - Southern NH Flying Eagles Enhancement Project
Attachments: 211104 - Southern NH Flying Eagles FIELD RECLAMATION PROJECT.PPTX; 211028 - Flying Field Enhancement Project.docx; 210920 - MCC Minutes .pdf; 211004 - MCC Minutes.pdf

Hi Francis and Nelson,

Bob Fregault of the Southern NH Flying Eagles has been working with the Merrimack Conservation Commission and they have been before the Merrimack Town Council for their proposed enhancement project on Town-owned land located off of Griffin Street (Sklar Park).

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- There may be some value in the trees – a forester could be consulted to make that determination
- No issues from zoning/planning

I'm emailing you to ask if you, as the Chair and member of the Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee, have any input on this proposed project? Would you require the group to present the LMRLAC with their proposal?

Please advise.

Thank you,
Becky

Becky Thompson

Executive Secretary, Town of Merrimack
6 Baboosic Lake Rd.
Merrimack, NH 03054
Phone: 603-424-2331 | Fax: 603-424-0461
bthompson@merrimacknh.gov

Becky Thompson

From: Kyle Fox
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:31 PM
To: Kevin Anderson; Becky Thompson; Robert Price; Timothy J. Thompson
Cc: Paul Micali
Subject: RE: Flying Eagles

Thank you Kevin.

Becky,

Compiling this for TC:

- No issues with Shoreland Protection as it is a 3rd order stream (Shoreland applies to 4th order or higher)
- No issues with SoRLAC as the work area is more than ¼ mile from the Souhegan River
- Project is within ¼ mile of Merrimack River and so should be presented to LMRLAC
- An intent to cut permit may be required
- There may be some value in the trees – a forester could be consulted to make that determination
- No issues from zoning/planning

Hope this helps,

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Kyle

Kyle Fox, PE

Public Works Director

Public Works Department

6 Baboosic Lake Road

Merrimack, NH 03054

(603) 424-5137

<https://www.facebook.com/MerrimackDPW>

From: Kevin Anderson

Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:11 PM

To: Becky Thompson <bthompson@merrimacknh.gov>; Robert Price <RPrice@merrimacknh.gov>; Timothy J. Thompson <tthompson@merrimacknh.gov>; Kyle Fox <kfox@merrimacknh.gov>

Subject: RE: Flying Eagles

I received the following regarding NHDES shoreland permitting for the flying eagles. I don't believe any other DES permits apply.

Dear Mr. Anderson,

Naticook Brook is a 3rd Order stream and not regulated under the Shoreland Act, RSA 483-B. Though, they may need to file an intent to cut. Our desk top review did not directly identify any wetlands, though some may exist.

Sincerely,

Becky Thompson

From: Robert Price
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:05 AM
To: Timothy J. Thompson; Kyle Fox; Becky Thompson
Cc: Kevin Anderson
Subject: RE: Flying Eagles

I concur.

Robert Price

Planning & Zoning Administrator
Town of Merrimack, NH
6 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054
(603) 424-3531
<http://www.merrimacknh.gov>

From: Timothy J. Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:54 AM
To: Kyle Fox <kfox@merrimacknh.gov>; Becky Thompson <bthompson@merrimacknh.gov>
Cc: Kevin Anderson <KAnderson@merrimacknh.gov>; Robert Price <RPrice@merrimacknh.gov>
Subject: RE: Flying Eagles

Unless Robert believes I am incorrect, the wetland buffers would only apply if a development proposal is submitted to the Planning Board (see below).

TOWN OF MERRIMACK ZONING ORDINANCE & BUILDING CODE

Section 2.02.7 - District W, Wetlands Conservation District - Permitted Uses (continued)

7. Buffer Requirements:

- a) **Buffer:** a naturally vegetated upland area adjacent to a wetland, more specifically defined as the area within a specified distance from the edge of a wetland.
- b) **Applicability:** all residential and nonresidential development proposals submitted to the Planning Board for subdivision or nonresidential site plan approval after the effective date of this section (March, 2000) shall provide for a buffer of not less than twenty-five (25) feet from all applicable wetland areas. Applicable wetland areas include all naturally occurring jurisdictional wetlands, as defined herein, with a contiguous area of 3,000 square feet or more, and all jurisdictional wetlands adjacent to any surface water body, river, or stream listed in Section 2.02.12(C) (Shoreland Protection District) of this Ordinance. Upon designation of a wetland buffer area on any plat or plan approved by the Planning Board, said buffer area shall thereafter become a part of the Wetlands Conservation District as defined and described in Section 2.02.7(A).(1) of this ordinance.
- c) **Exceptions:** the buffer requirement noted above shall not apply to minor lot line adjustments, consolidation plans or voluntary mergers of nonconforming lots not intended for development purposes or for waivers from nonresidential site plan review applications related to changes, alterations or modifications of previously approved, developed sites.

Timothy J. Thompson, AICP
Community Development Director
Town of Merrimack, NH
6 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054

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"Growth is inevitable and desirable, but destruction of community character is not. The question is not whether your part of the world is going to change. The question is how." -- Edward T. McMahon, The Conservation Fund

From: Kyle Fox

Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 4:39 PM

To: Becky Thompson <bthompson@merrimacknh.gov>; Timothy J. Thompson <tthompson@merrimacknh.gov>

Cc: Kevin Anderson <KAnderson@merrimacknh.gov>

Subject: RE: Flying Eagles

Kevin is doing some research on the topic regarding permit requirements with respect to brook, river, wetlands, etc.

Tim, are there any buffer restrictions on this with respect to Naticook Brook? It doesn't appear the brook is a high enough tier to require a shoreland permit – Kevin is going to contact NHDES to verify.

Kevin's initial run through identified LMRLAC as a group of interest but has not yet identified any others.

Kyle Fox, PE

Public Works Director

Public Works Department

6 Baboosic Lake Road

Merrimack, NH 03054

(603) 424-5137

<https://www.facebook.com/MerrimackDPW>

From: Becky Thompson

Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 4:27 PM

To: Kyle Fox <kfox@merrimacknh.gov>; Timothy J. Thompson <tthompson@merrimacknh.gov>

Subject: FW: Flying Eagles

Bob's phone number is 603-673-8184. Thank you.

Becky Thompson

Executive Secretary, Town of Merrimack

6 Baboosic Lake Rd.

Merrimack, NH 03054

Phone: 603-424-2331 | Fax: 603-424-0461

bthompson@merrimacknh.gov

From: Becky Thompson

Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:01 PM

To: 'Robert P Fregault'

Cc: Timothy J. Thompson; Kyle Fox (kfox@merrimacknh.gov); Steve Perkins; mdrouin@merrimacknh.gov

Subject: RE: Flying Eagles

Hi Bob,

I'm including Community Development Director, Tim Thompson, and Public Works Director, Kyle Fox, in my reply so they can respond to you accordingly.

I understand that the Town Council tabled your item last night until their next regularly scheduled meeting on **Thursday, November 18th at 7:00 PM.**

Tim and Kyle – the Flying Eagles are looking to have many trees removed on Town-owned property (Sklar) and Naticook Brook runs through that specific area. Please advise Mr. Fregault on how he should proceed. The Council needs more action taken before they discuss this again and ultimately make a decision. This item was discussed during two recent Conservation Commission meetings (minutes attached).

Thank you,

Becky

Becky Thompson

Executive Secretary, Town of Merrimack

6 Baboosic Lake Rd.

Merrimack, NH 03054

Phone: 603-424-2331 | Fax: 603-424-0461

bthompson@merrimacknh.gov

From: Robert P Fregault [<mailto:rpfregault@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 12:47 PM

To: Becky Thompson

Cc: Tim Sowder

Subject: Flying Eagles

Hi Becky,

We met with the Town Council last evening to discuss the tree removal at Drobysh-Patterson Field and the council seemed receptive to what we were requesting. They did, however, ask that we meet with the Conservation Committee and the DPW to get their inputs about clearing the trees. I need some guidance as to how we proceed at this point and who do we contact.

Regards,

Bob Fregault

Becky Thompson

From: Michael Drouin
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Becky Thompson
Subject: RE: Robert Fregault - Flying Eagles

Hi Becky,

This was talked about at our CC meeting, and it was determined that the parcel they are on is town owned, but separate from the conservation property, so they would need TC permission. Apparently they lease the property as well. MCC will weigh in if it involves work in the wetland buffer (Naticook brook that runs through it).

Sklar is made up of two parcels, one is conservation, one is general town owned, the boundary is the dirt road that goes through (the road itself is on the general town parcel).

I will be attending the TC meeting with them in case the TC has any questions.

Very Respectfully,
Michael R Drouin

From: Becky Thompson
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Michael Drouin
Subject: Robert Fregault - Flying Eagles

Hi Michael,

Robert Fregault from the Southern NH Flying Eagles RC Club just called asking to be placed on a future Town Council meeting agenda for permission to remove trees on a Town-owned parcel. He said that he has been speaking with you about this. He wasn't particularly clear on which parcel. Is it the Sklar property??

Before this is brought before the Town Council I'm going to need additional information. Is this a Conservation property? If so, the Council would like this item brought before the MCC for a recommendation and then it would go to the Council. Please advise.

Thank you!
Becky

Becky Thompson
Executive Secretary, Town of Merrimack
6 Baboosic Lake Rd.
Merrimack, NH 03054
Phone: 603-424-2331 | Fax: 603-424-0461 bthompson@merrimacknh.gov<<mailto:bthompson@merrimacknh.gov>>

*Town of Merrimack, NH
Wednesday, November 10, 2021*

Chapter 19. Conservation Commission

Article II. Silviculture

§ 19-3. Authorization to perform silviculture on Town-owned lands.

The Conservation Commission is hereby authorized to perform silviculture (selective cutting and trimming of cordwood or timber) on Town-owned lands under the Commission's management, as may be designated by the Town Council, and under the direction of the N.H. State Division of Forests and Lands; and any proceeds therefrom shall be placed in the Conservation Fund.

- Flying Eagles Enhancement Project Steps. This item is a continued discussion from the 9/20/21 meeting.

Commissioner Drouin spoke of the information provided the Commission (copy attached). When the Flying Eagles started leasing space from the Town, it was a clear field. Because the area was not maintained, there has been growth.

The group is looking for approval to cut up to the road. Commissioner Drouin stated his preference to maintain a buffer. He is supportive of a 100' buffer from the roadway. He noted a particular corner (delineated on the map as area B). The bridge is in that area, and the proposal would increase visibility for people turning onto the bridge. Currently you have to make a wide angle turn to get over it safely.

The group does not wish to cut trees next to the railroad track. The stream that runs through area C would have the standard buffer. Commissioner Drouin stated the desire to provide the group the authority to cut trees that are over 15' in height in area C (drop and leave where land unless landing in the stream). He believes doing so would create a better habitat for birds and small animals.

Commissioner Perry asked for clarification the desire is to clear cut the area identified as area B and trees over 15' in area C. Area A would be clear cut leaving a buffer of 100' from the roadway.

Commissioner Drouin spoke of having met with the County Forester earlier in the day. He explained that the majority of the trees are Silver Maples that grow very quickly. By cutting the trees it creates early succession habitat, which is good for birds and small animals. Every 10 years they would want to cut. He suggested allowing the group to cut the trees and drop them. That would stop off-roading activity and would prohibit mowing. The work would not be done in a single cutting season.

The group is looking to cut 3-5 trees (notch) on Commission property (near parking area); to improve line of sight for landings. The area is covered with Bittersweet. He suggested a condition of continued permission to maintain the notch could be a requirement for the group to mow around the kiosk in the parking area.

Commissioner Kolb commented she has no issue with improving the line of sight for landing. She wishes for additional information regarding the removal of trees in area A. Commissioner Drouin stated the club flies airplanes, a lot of which contain liquid fuel. Quite a few crash in area A. It is hard to retrieve in that area. Commissioner Kolb commented she is unsure how walking through a forest of fallen logs would be any easier. Commissioner Drouin responded most times they either lose line of sight with their controllers or hit a tree. As area A is a Town parcel and was leased when it was open, clear field, if not provided permission, they could argue that it is their right because they leased a clear field.

Commissioner Rosati questioned who owns area C and was told the entire parcel is Town owned. Noted was the ability of the Commission to provide a recommendation, but that any decisions would have to be made by the Town Council.

Commissioner Perry stated the Commission has already indicated it would likely agree to cutting the trees on the Commission property, but that identification of which trees was required.

Commissioner Drouin stated the group wishes to cut in the wetland buffer of area C (Naticook Brook). That is what the Commission would be providing a recommendation on. Vice Chair Boisvert did not agree with the assessment that area C was discussed with the Forester.

1 Commissioner Rosati questioned the will of the Commission with regard to requesting the County Forester
2 appear before the Town Council to discuss the area and the desired cut. She spoke of being leery of cutting
3 down such a large area of trees. Asked if there are markings on the ground delineating the areas highlighted
4 on the map, Commissioner Drouin remarked it is clear as on the stream there is a thick buffer of ferns, and
5 you can see where they mow.

6
7 Vice Chair Boisvert remarked area A is beyond their line of sight. Perhaps they need to cut the trees on the
8 other side of the parking area and some trees in area B and the edge of area C, but he does not understand
9 the amount of cutting proposed.

0
1 Noted was that the area is full of 15-20' tall trees. Commissioner Kolb remarked she would have no
2 problem recommending they be permitted to remove trees in the parking lot area. There remains more
3 discussion to be had around the larger areas.

4
5 Commissioner Drouin sated the desire of the group to create a walking bridge for easy access.
6 Commissioner Rosati commented on the amount of clearing and her desire to visit the area. Vice Chair
7 Boisvert spoke of having been part of the site visit earlier in the day, and that he does not recollect the
8 discussion including area A.

9
0 Commissioner Drouin remarked he is against clear-cutting any land, but this would not be a loss; there are
1 not a lot of low brush/shrub areas currently available. Should the group go to the Town with a request to
2 conduct regular maintenance; return the land to the condition it was in when the lease began, the
3 Commission would lose out on the opportunity to state trees could be cut, but shrubs must be left to grow.

4
5 Vice Chair Boisvert spoke of the need to understand the lease language.

6
7 Commissioner Rosati suggested the Commission bring the proposal forward to Tim Thompson, Director,
8 Community Development Department. Commissioner Perry reiterated he is agreeable to removal of the few
9 trees on Commission property noting he would request the same thing that was requested previously;
0 identify which trees would be cut.

1
2 Commissioner Rosati stated the minutes of the meeting could be submitted to Director Thompson to inform
3 him of the request being made to the Commission.

4
5 Commissioner Drouin offered to make a request for the group to come before the Commission.
6 Commissioner Perry stated he would not want to waste their time as the property in question is that of the
7 Town and any decision would be made by the Town Council. Commissioner Drouin reiterated that the
8 wetland buffer would be involved, and was told the Commission could make a recommendation, but the
9 decision is that of the Town.

0
1 Chair Perkins will discuss the request with Director Thompson and update the Commission at the next
2 meeting. The Flying Eagles should mark the trees they wish to remove from Commission property so that
3 the Commission can view them and reach a decision.

- 4
5 • Grater Woods stick bridge on Silverfish trail

6
7 Vice Chair Boisvert stated the stick bridge has been removed and a pressure treated bridge has been put in
8 its place. He expressed gratitude to former Commissioner Matt Caron for leading the effort.

ON THE QUESTION

Commissioner Perry noted the term expiration date could be identified at a later time understanding the appointee could remain on the sub-committee beyond their time on the Commission. A request will be made for a listing of all sub-committees identifying terms. Commissioner Kolb's term may be amended at a future date.

MOTION CARRIED

6-0-1

Commissioner Kolb Abstained

The sub-committee approved of the suggestion to rent goats to address some invasives, depending on cost. Commissioner Rosati looked into the possibility and learned they will not travel more than 20 miles. Inquiries will be made with residents having goats. A posting will be placed on the positive community forum.

The sub-committee has been looking into unauthorized trail making. Most turn out to be either forgotten trails or deer paths. However, one man-made trail was identified. The individual responsible is known to the sub-committee and has been approached. The question was asked of how to proceed. Chair Perkins stated the information should be provided to the Police Department for enforcement.

The sub-committee is interested in knowing if any Eagle Scouts will be performing projects on the property.

Sklar Waterfront Park

The Sub-committee will meet on September 26th to go over the plan for the fall. There are a number of damaged and dead trees that remain standing. Commissioner Perry noted the PWD has agreed to address potentially dangerous trees. Commissioner Drouin spoke of a tree he would like to be taken down and left where it lands to block off the trail being used by jeeps to access the property. The existing boulders have been moved.

The sub-committee is seeking permission to take down trees that present safety issues. They would look to the PWD for the larger trees and hope to address the smaller ones themselves. Asked about the proximity of the trees to water, Commissioner Drouin remarked there are many that are in excess of 300' and others that are closer. He questioned the need for permitting. Commissioner Perry suggested contacting Lori Sommer, Wetland Mitigation Coordinator, NH Department of Environmental Services.

Commissioner Drouin spoke with the Flying Eagles. Their planes cannot fly out of sight. When they started on the property, trees were not an issue. Their flying space is decreasing. Asked what the original boundary was, he stated uncertainty. There is some language associated with the property that permits the Flying Eagles to remain onsite. A handout was provided depicting the trees the group is looking to remove. The group also wishes to construct a small walking bridge across a stream in the back of the property. The bridge would assist in retrieving planes that may crash in the woods (carrying fuel). Commissioner Perry spoke of the need to review a map to identify exact locations/parcel owners and remarked he did not see why there would be an issue with removal of some of the trees.

Chair Perkins commented on having had a discussion around this issue last year and a request that was made for the trees to be marked so that the Commission could visit the area with the PWD and chart a path forward. He would still like to see that done.

Commissioner Drouin remarked it is clear who owns the trees. On their side of the road it is the Town and on

the water side, it is the Commission. Asked about the number of trees involved, he identified 5 full-grown pine trees and some smaller trees. The Flying Eagles have stated a willingness to hire a professional and pay the cost. *The matter will be placed on the October 4, 2021 agenda for further discussion.*

Commissioner Perry suggested a boundary could be identified and the group authorized to keep the area within the boundary clear. The group will be asked to provide markings so that the Commission has a clear understanding of the request. The Flying Eagles have also offered to keep the parking area mowed.

Commissioner Drouin requested the PWD be asked to grade/flatten the road into the site. He questioned if a plow truck could get into the area during the winter months and push the snow along access to the bridge to prohibit crossing the stream, which would help keep out the off-roaders.

Wildcat Falls

A request was received from the Athletic Director at the High School for permission to perform some trimming. As no concerns were expressed, some trimming was done. A complaint was subsequently received and passed along. The Director has indicated he will follow-up to determine if the area in question was part of the work they did.

A complaint was received that someone had spray painted markings on trees. Commissioner Rosati questioned if it might have been done by the UNH Cooperative Extension as a way of identifying camera locations. Chair Perkins stated he has spoken with the individual in the past and will reach out again.

Cross country will utilize the area and conduct meets (coming down from high school). They are working on their path. Commissioner Rosati informed of the need to contact NH DOT to do any work on the State side.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

Merrimack Conservation Commission. [August 16, 2021](#)

The following amendments were offered:

- Page 1, Line 21; correct spacing
- Page 5, Line 8; replace “Perry” with “Perkins”

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY CHAIR PERKINS
MOTION CARRIED**

6-0-1
Commissioner Starr Abstained

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathie Breen, 7 Proctor Road

A master gardener and currently enrolled in the Natural Resource Steward Class. She was looking to identify where she might provide volunteer hours. Her main interests are pollinators and invasives. Commissioner Rosati spoke of prior attempts to establish a pollinator garden at Wildcat Falls. Ms. Breen stated she is currently volunteering at the Boys & Girls Club in Milford. A few years ago they started an edible garden. They have added a pollinator garden and a native plant garden. She has experience with pollinator gardens.

Flying Field Enhancement Project Steps

- 1. Identify Project Team members and Project Timeline**
- 2. Define Objectives of the Field Enhancement Project**
 - a. Expand flying field to create a more useful airspace.
 - b. Restore flying field to a minimum of the original boundaries.
 - c. Remove tree hazards that present flight risks to aircraft.
 - d. Remove trees at south end of the field to improve south end landing approach.
 - e. Remove some trees at north end of the field to improve north end landing approach.
- 3. Identify the Field areas to be addressed in the Project (scope of work):**
 - a. Area bordering the East side of the field.
 - b. Area at the North end of the field.
 - c. Area at the south end of the field.
 - d. Access road.
- 4. Define the specific work to be done in each area, e.g.,**
 - a. Measure the physical boundaries of area to be cleared.
 - b. Identify the number of trees to be removed.
 - c. Identify the size of trees to be removed.
 - d. Develop ideas for the conservation of the areas cleared.
- 5. Research options to dispose of cut trees**
 - a. Club members to cut trees.
 - b. Advertise free fire wood.
 - c. Cordwood vendors to cut and remove trees in length for firewood.
 - d. Commercial tree cutters to remove tall pines for board wood.
 - e. Chipper rental to dispose of branches.
- 6. Identify Environmental protections to reclaimed areas**
 - a. Availability of existing ground cover to prevent soil erosion.
 - b. Planting of Christmas trees at south end of the field.
 - c. Broadcasting of wild flowers or wild grass seeds.
- 7. Investigate current state and town ordinances dealing with tree cutting;**
obtain plot diagrams of the field and surrounding area and notate the scope of work to be done.
- 8. Selling the Project to Merrimack Conservation Committee**

- a. Prepare a complete Project Plan for submission to the Conservation Committee.
- b. Initiate a conversation with an appropriate member of the Conservation Committee concerning the proposed project.
- c. Develop an explanation of why the field improvements are needed.
- d. Invite Conservation Committee members to visit our flying field on a Sunday or Tuesday evening.
- e. Have commitment of club members to be on hand to demonstrate the kinds of aircraft the we fly.
- f. Create a resume of our club: its history, number of members, our various activities, our national organization membership, our flying safety practices, our stewardship of the property, our contributions to the town, etc.



Who Are We?

- Aviation enthusiasts who build and fly radio controlled aircraft.
- Club was organized in 1988 operating on land originally owned by Patterson Construction Co., later acquired by the town.
- We are a charter member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA).
- Our operations are subject to the rules of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- Our 2021 roster - 65 members
- Members include engineers, pilots, CPA's, tradesmen, and students
- Members are school age through senior citizens
- Membership is open to everyone

Academy of Model Aeronautics

- Founded in 1936 to promote interest in the hobby of model aviation.
- AMA is comprised of 195,000 members organized in 11 Districts and 2,500 clubs across the country.
- AMA promulgates the safety rules that govern each chartered club's flying activities.
- AMA sanctions various flying events and competitions nationwide, providing technical support, and supplemental liability insurance coverage.
- Serves as a liaison between the chartered clubs and the Federal Aviation Administration in promulgating federal laws regulating Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

FAA Rules & Requirements

- All UAS pilots must be registered with the FAA
- All model aircraft must display the pilot's FAA registration number
- Model aircrafts are restricted by size
- Clubs recognized by the FAA must be comply with the rules of a Community Based Organization (CBO) such as the AMA
- Aircraft must operate in designated areas and within specified altitude limits
- Pilots must comply with all FAA flight regulations

How the Flying Eagles Support the Community

- Provides creative activities for both young and old
- Developed and maintains Drobysch-Patterson Field at Club's expense
- Supports the annual Merrimack 4th of July Parade
- Participates in the Conservation Committee's area cleanups
- Raises funds for WWII Veterans 'Honor Flights'
- Supports the Boy Scouts' interest in Aviation
- Has Supported the Winter Carnival and Toys for Tots programs

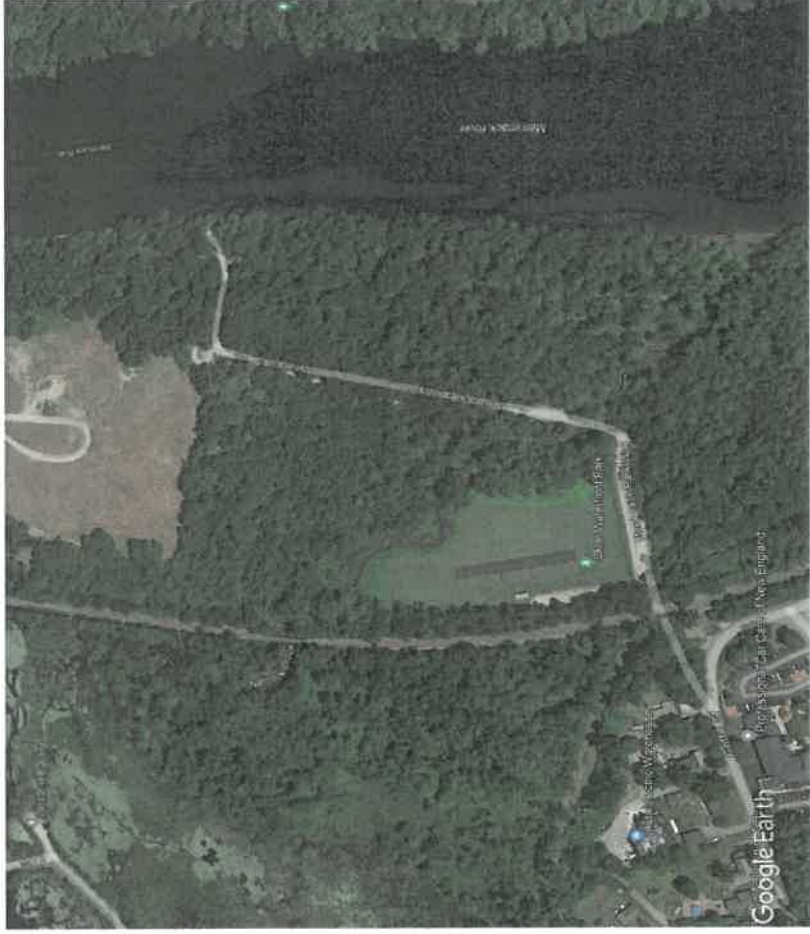
Why Are We Here?

- In 1988, our flying site was originally an open sandy space.
- In the intervening 34 years, numerous trees have grown up on all four sides of the field, significantly decreasing our operating space and creating serious hazards to our aircraft.
- The Flying Eagles are seeking permission to restore the field to its original open boundaries.
- The effort to accomplish this task would be borne by the Club.

Views of Our Field Over Time



Patterson Field 1992



Drobysh-Patterson Field 2021

Investments We've Made in Our Field



Trees Encroaching Upon Our Field



O u r F i e l d T o d a y



Looking North



North End Trees



East Side of the Field



South End Approach

Work to be Done

- A select number of tall trees at the north end of the field would be felled to improve the landing approach
- The trees along the eastern edge (mostly > 6" in diameter) would be felled, cut into log lengths, and reduced to fire wood or used as border edging. The branches would be either chipped into mulch or burned.
- Tree stumps would cut close to the ground and left for soil retention.
- A "notch" would be cut at the south end of the field to provide a landing approach from the south to help eliminate "overshooting" the runway.
- Natural vegetation will continue to grow on the property and provide for soil retention.
- A professional tree service would be employed to fell the larger pine trees.
- The project would be done over 2-3 years as Club resources allow.

Areas to be Reclaimed



Questions?

