



**TOWN OF MADISON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
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**REGULAR MEETING APPROVED MINUTES  
JUNE 1, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Marcia McKenna, Marc Ohlson, Ted Slader and Selectman Josh Shackford.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Ralph Lutjen, Nancy Devine and Emily Bass. Also absent was Alternate Robbin Rancourt.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Substitute Land Use Administrator Melissa Arias, Planning Board Member Noreen Downs, and Madison TV Videographers Amy Boyd & Jenna Boyd (in training).

**MEETING POSTED:** May 24, 2017 at Town Hall (upper and lower levels), Madison and Silver Lake Post Offices.

**CALL TO ORDER:** McKenna called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ohlson moved to approve the May 4, 2017 Draft Minutes as prepared; seconded by Slader. All approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Noreen Downs said she attended the Wildlife Action Plan Roundtable meeting last night in Chocorua as a Planning Board member. The event was put on by the NH Cooperative Extension, NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) and NH Fish & Game Department. The current Wildlife Action Plan was completed in 2015 and is updated every 5 years. Downs presented the group with a folder containing pamphlets on the 20+ local habitats and how landowners, land trusts, and communities can take action for wildlife. Downs also delivered Madison's color-coded community maps (with tax map overlay) in both large-scale and CD format that show habitats, wetlands, and wildlife rankings based upon logged sightings. Noreen offered to take the large maps to FedEx in Portsmouth for lamination at \$22 per sheet. The Commission said she can put in for reimbursement out of their budget afterward. The laminated maps will be a nice addition to the other resource maps in the meeting room. McKenna asked that the maps be linked to the Conservation page of the Town's website. Downs will be receiving Madison's wildlife habitat inventory spreadsheet to share with the group. There are two upcoming related workshops at the Remick Farm in Tamworth: (1) Creating Habitat for Wildlife Species In Need – Shrublands and Young Forests on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – noon and (2) Exploring some of NH's Unique Habitats on June 30<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm. The NHACC annual conference will be November 4<sup>th</sup> this year. Currently the NHACC is working on their inventory of municipal properties and updating GIS mapping data. They are also revising their handbook to be shared on their website. During the meeting, they

encouraged Conservation Commissions to call anytime with questions or to inquire how a specific issue has been handled by other municipalities.

Downs asked the group to email her a few sentences regarding ongoing projects for sharing in the next Green Mountain Conservation Group newsletter.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **A. Forest Management Plan**

Two recent invoices have been received from Forest Land Improvements for work done in May on the Goodwin Forest. Invoice #17-169 in the amount of \$4,437.00 was for the early May clean-up of storm-damaged trees around the Lead Mine site that blew over in the summer of 2016. Invoice # 17-176 in the amount of \$1,353.50 was for the late May removal of hazard trees on town property near the Veilleux residence. Shackford questioned why this additional vote was necessary after pointing out that both projects were discussed at length and consented to during previous meetings. McKenna said there are a fair number of trees still down along the edge of Lead Mine Road. Arias was asked to seek an opinion from Tim Nolan as to whether those trees can naturally decay in place or should be cleaned up, and if so, what the cost would be.

**Motion:** McKenna moved to release the funds for both invoices as outlined above, seconded by Shackford. All approved.

### **B. Old Home Week**

Arias presented a Request for Payment for \$230 for the Wildlife Encounters of Rochester presentation during Old Home Week on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 4-5 pm in the Elementary School gym. The 2017 budget for this was set at \$300 so Arias was asked to find out if they would bring a few additional interactive animals for the full amount. The Commission will also hold the Old Home Week hike on Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup> at 11 am with carpooling from the Elementary School to the soon-to-be donated Barclay property and a bring-your-own bagged lunch option. Arias has been in contact with Nancy Cole to ensure the 2017 Old Home Week schedule includes the two Conservation Commission sponsored events. (*See more Old Home Week discussion under Section D. below*)

### **C. Hiking Trail Update**

Slader reported that the Madison Hiking Trail map update will begin in mid-July when he, Lutjen & Devine walk the properties and verify the accuracy of the existing map data. They will also walk the properties acquired since 2008 and propose language for those. Minuteman Press recommends increasing the map size to 11x17 for the additional text. More information will be shared at the September meeting.

### **D. William Barclay Land Donation**

Arias said Attorney Bronstein now has all the information necessary for Mr. Barclay to sign the deed to the Town of Madison for the land donation off of Route 113 (Conway Road). The document will be sent to Barclay via mail to sign in front of a Notary and return. The Board of Selectmen will then need to accept the deed at a future Board meeting. Hopefully this can be accomplished prior to Old Home Week. Ohlson will visit the site to scope out a suitable route for the Old Home Week hike and will let the group know if any minor work needs to be done

beforehand. Arias said Barclay is agreeable to his name being used on the sign and she will look into placing an order through Gemini Sign to resemble the other land donation signs.

**E. Deed restriction on Currier Property**

This item will be put on the July agenda in the hopes Mr. Rancourt attends and reports in.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Letter of Support for The Nature Conservancy trail**

Ohlson said Jeff Lougee of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) requested a letter of support to the RTP Coordinator at the NH Bureau of Trails for the handicap accessible trail TNC wants to build on the Pine Barren property off Route 41 (Plains Road). The trail will run from the existing trail head off Route 41 to the West Branch River and be installed by a company called Timber and Stone. Arias drafted the letter of support which was read and signed by McKenna.

**SELECTMEN'S REPORT:**

Shackford said a private property off Lead Mine Road has been the target of illegal dumping after a recent logging operation. The Highway Department has been ditching in the area and may offer to leave a few large rocks for the land owner to use to block vehicular access and discourage dumping.

McKenna asked if the Selectmen or Planning Board has taken a position on the proposed gas station at the corner of Routes 16 and 41. Both Shackford and Ohlson said the project will likely be considered as having a regional impact but their boards aren't likely to take a position on a matter that involves another municipality's business.

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT:**

The Planning Board is still working on the Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulation.

**ADMINISTRATION/CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Commission suggested including the following items for the next Green Mountain Conservation newsletter: (1) May 2017 clean-up of the Lead Mine site after Summer 2016 storm damage; (2) Summer 2017 timber harvest on the Goodwin/Burke town properties off Lead Mine Road/Black Brook Road; (3) Wildlife Encounters presentation on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm in the Madison Elementary School gym for Old Home Week; & (4) updating the 2008 Madison Hiking Trail map during Summer/Fall 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Shackford made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Slader. All approved. Adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa S. Arias  
Substitute Land Use Administrator

These minutes were APPROVED at the July 5, 2017 meeting.