



**TOWN OF MADISON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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**Conservation Commission Approved Minutes
February 1, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marcia McKenna, Ralph Lutjen, Nancy Devine, Marc Ohlson, Emily Bass, Josh Shackford- Selectman's Rep.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Ted Slader, Alternate

OTHERS PRESENT: Colleen King, Land Use Administrator , Ron Force,

MEETING POSTED: January 24, 2018 at Madison Town Hall (upper and lower levels) and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices

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

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2, 2017 MINUTES: The December meeting was cancelled so that members could attend the Green Mountain Conservation Group's Aquifer presentation at Runnels Hall in Chocorua. The January 2018 meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm. The November 2, 2017 Draft minutes were reviewed and no comments. Mrs. Bass made a **Motion** to approve the November 2, 2017 Draft Minutes, seconded by Ms. Devine. All Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Discussed under New Business - Loon Island Volunteer Request

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Madison Hiking Trail Update: Mrs. King distributed information from the NHACC and UNH Cooperative Extension (www.TrailFinder.info) on trail maps.

The UNH group is available to help: map our trails,
edit trail data,
create trail descriptions and
upload it to Trailfinder.

Putting our trails on TrailFinder will tie into the Madison Conservation's effort:

- to promote our local trails and conservation work,
- make the trails clear and easy to find,
- let trail users know what is and isn't allowed on the Madison Trails.

The contact person at the UNH is Emma Tutein, (603) 679-5616 and emma.tutein@unh.edu.

Mrs. Devine and Mr. Lutjen will update at the April 2018 meeting.

B. B&M Lots (Currier ROW Deed Restriction Update): This will remain on the agenda until Mr. Ohlson is able to reach Mr. Currier and discuss the ROW issue.

C. Deer Trot/ Wold Property ROW: Mr. Ohlson examined this property as there was some resident complaint/concern on the ROW. He reported that nothing has changed on the property and there no indication of any activity at all. Ms. McKenna stated that this agenda item is resolved and closed.

D. Cost Benefit of Joining NH Lakes: Mrs. King presented a NH Lakes brochure from the NHACC as this topic was discussed briefly at the November 2017 meeting. Ms. Devine was thinking about a potential warrant article to support the NH Lakes Association as there are 7-9 lakes of different sizes in Madison. Ms. Devine will invite someone from the NH Lakes to speak at a future meeting (April/May). Silver Lake is the only public boat in the State that has a mandatory boat wash, which is protecting Silver Lake.

Ms. Devine proposed a **Motion** to join NH Lakes in a small way in 2018; Mr. Lutjen seconded.

Discussion- Ms. McKenna asked about where the Conservation line item for memberships.

The NHACC dues are \$296.00 and the budgeted amount is \$300. Mrs. King suggested taking a small amount (\$50) from the training line item. Last year, \$100 was budgeted and only \$55 was used. This year, \$100 is proposed. There was concern about missing the NHACC annual conference but Mrs. King indicated that she now has most of the contact information. Ms. Devine stated that the NH Lakes is having a Congress in Meredith on May31/June1.

Ms. McKenna thought that \$50 is such a small amount that it may not be worth it.

Mr. Lutjen suggested waiting until next year so they could be prepared to include it in the Conservation budget. Ms. Devine will make a presentation at a later date and withdrew the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Loon Island - Volunteer Request

Mr. Ron Force, a concerned resident presented photos of Loon Island and the erosion concerns. Dick Kitchen of Allegro Pines donated this island to the Town of Madison in 2004 and it is heavily used in the summer. There are many boaters who moor at the sandbar along the north and west shore of the island and the children play with the rocks in the water. This movement of rocks, over time has been eroding the ground that supports the trees along the shoreline and is causing the size of the island to shrink. Some trees have fallen over with their stumps sticking up in the air and some are leaning very low over the water. There are some trees on the island which are dead and diseased and have already fallen over.

Mr. Force has two requests:

1. Several volunteers be given approval to cut four diseased and/or dead trees into small pieces, transport via toboggans/snowmobiles and properly dispose of the debris.
2. Have several small signs posted on the island, "*Please Preserve Our Beautiful Island. Do Not MOVE or REMOVE Anything From The Shoreline*". Mr. Force offered to expedite this effort by having the signs made and being reimbursed by the Town.

Mrs. Bass stated that the rocks are being moved and make a pool area. She asked if the tree stumps would be removed. Mr. Force indicated their intent is to lay the stump back down into the ground and prevent further erosion. Mr. Force stated that there have been campers overnight on the island with 3'-4' campfires on the island, which is not allowed.

Ms. McKenna confirmed that the movement of rocks and the change of the wave action is having a detrimental impact on the island. However, the removal of trees which are hanging over the water is questionable. Many times trees are laid in or over the water to provide a natural nesting habitat for certain species of fish. Mr. Lutjen suggested cutting the trunks, leaving in the stumps and keeping the area accessible to people to enjoy the island. Ms. Devine does not recommend leaving the trees in the lake as it would be dangerous because the trees are big. Mr. Force stated that most of these trees fell over due to human intervention. If this was a natural process, he would not be coming to the Conservation with his request. Mr. Ohlson stated that there is a decision-making protocol for this and the sign. It should state 'no fires and do not move rocks or plants'. Mr. Lutjen suggested having a forester look at this.

Selectman Shackford brought the property history binder in for review. The Deed states that it was donated in 2004 by Richard Jr. and Jane Kitchen, and it shall remain in its undeveloped, scenic and open space condition, in perpetuity to conserve the land, water, and vegetative matter and wildlife resource; shall be limited to daytime recreational activities; restricts shelters and open fires and with carry-in/carry-out trash management.

Mrs. Bass stated that people have asked to park at her house so they can camp overnight with their family. The deed specifically states daytime activities only.

Ms. McKenna questioned whether dead trees are considered wildlife resources as stated in the deed.

Ms. Devine believes that the dead leaning trees should be taken down. Mrs. Bass inquired how trees on other trails are handled if down.

Mr. Force stated that AMC removes any tree from a trail that could be a danger to hikers. Mrs. Bass agreed. Selectman Shackford stated that legally the Town is not liable if a tree fell on someone on a Town trail.

Ms. McKenna was not comfortable making a decision tonight, but a sign should state no fires, no camping, no moving of rocks. Mrs. King spoke to DES about the situation and trees can be cut but not the stump. Mr. Ohlson suggested a site visit and Mrs. Bass goes out to the island often. Mr. Ohlson stated that the decision-making protocol should be used in this situation. It is a cheat-sheet for consistent decisions like this. Mrs. King located an Advisory Worksheet document. The Board asked Mr. Force if the ice on the lake would be safe in the beginning of March. Mr. Force stated it should still be safe enough to take care of the trees. Mrs. King will contact DES and ask if anything can be done to stabilize the island or remediate the human intervention. Ms. McKenna concluded that Board members should make individual visits to the island and view the situation. The item will remain on the agenda.

B. Warrant Articles

The \$5000 is not on the proposed budget for Land Use Acquisition as the budget is tight this year and crucial areas than need monetary attention. Selectman Shackford reported that the money was taken out of the budget at the November Selectman's meeting; however, this year, there is approximately \$25,000.00 coming in from the Land Use Change Tax to the Conservation Commission. When land comes out of Current Use and is not ready for development, the Conservation Commission receives 50% of the penalty. Ms. McKenna asked the Board if they wanted to request that the \$5000 be added from the floor at Town Meeting. Mr. Ohlson asked Selectman Shackford about the big ticket items this year. The Town budget this year increased by 2.2% overall and the school budget is increase by \$1.5M. Mr. Lutjen stated that in light of the fact that they are getting money from the Land Use Change Tax, that this year the Commission foregoes asking for the \$5000 for Capital expenditures. Mr. Ohlson concurred and made a **Motion** that in light of the budgetary demands this year with the Selectman removing the \$5000 from the Budget for Land Acquisition, that the Conservation

Commission acquiesce and not ask for the money; Seconded by Mr. Lutjen. Given the circumstances, Mr. Lutjen stated that this is the wisest move. All Approved. Selectman Shackford asked Mrs. King to bring to the next meeting a listing of all Conservation Accounts with dollar amounts. Mrs. King will bring a financial breakdown at the end of each quarter.

B. (con't) Class A Municipal Trails

C. Lead Mine Road - Mining Activity This will be on the May 2018 agenda.

D. Logging in Goodwin-Burke. This will be on the March 2018 agenda with Tim Nolan.

E. GMCG Aquifer Presentation Update (12/7/17)

SELECTMAN'S REPORT:

PLANNING BOARD:

ADMINISTRATIVE/CORRESPONDENCE

A. Wildlife Encounters - 2018 OHW

B. NHACC Update

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING

NON-PUBLIC Per 91-A:3 II (c)

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen King
Land Use Administrator

These minutes were approved at the March 1, 2018 meeting.