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**MINUTES**  
**May 4, 2023**

**MEMBER ROLL CALL:**

Ralph Lutjen, Acting Chair  
Marc Ohlson – Present  
Michael Brooks – Present  
Mike Mosher – Present  
Noreen Downs (Alternate) - Present

Ted Slader (Alternate) – Present  
Emily Bass – Excused  
Josh Shackford - Present  
Mike Mauro, Selectmens Rep.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Kasia Scontsas - Madison TV, Katharine Young, Land Use Boards Administrator, Tim Nolin and Marcia McKenna

**MEETING POSTED:** This meeting was posted at Madison Town Hall Upper & Lower, Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on May 1, 2023.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Lutjen called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**ELEVATION OF ALTERNATES:** **Motion** by Lutjen, seconded by Shackford to elevate Slader and Downs for this meeting. The motion passed **unanimously**.

**APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES:**

**Motion** by Lutjen, seconded by Slader to approve the April 6, 2023 minutes as written. The motion passed **unanimously**.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Property Review Commitments and Sign-up:**

Lutjen stated the Commission previously discussed that the property reports need to be updated and digitalized in conjunction with the property monitoring that Tim Nolin does and that the tax maps have old designations and need updating. He further stated that we have the property descriptions in hard

copy. Downs stated that the book at the library is large and wondered if it could be sent out to be digitalized.

Brooks stated they need to find a vendor to digitalize the paper documents and would also need to obtain quotes. Brooks stated he has resources and will get that information to Young.

**McNair Easement Amendment Update:**

Lutjen stated the Commission agreed at the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to suspend this until the property is sold. Downs stated she feels it would be good to establish a relationship with Laurie Corron and her family. Downs stated if the opportunity presents itself, she would just stop in to see her and get a feel of where they are going. McKenna stated they have only had contact with Laurie Corron and not the siblings.

**Motion** by Lutjen, seconded by Brooks for Downs have communication with Laurie Corron concerning the sale of the property before the Commission reinitiates any negotiation. The motion passed **unanimously**.

**Chain of Ponds Update:**

Lutjen stated there is nothing new to report.

**Difference between Town Forest and Town Property:**

Mauro stated this was discussed at the April 19, 2023 meeting and any designation of Town Forest or Town Property would have to be done at town meeting and that this is the legislative bodies responsibility. Lutjen stated when it becomes a Town Forest there is special designation of that and decisions made with respect to Town Forest which are outside the Selectmen via a special committee.

Nolin asked if any of the town properties that we manage are municipally designated Town Forest or just town owned land. Lutjen stated he believed that would have to become before the voters and was not sure if any of the properties have been. Shackford stated he would need to do more research and he believes none of them have been but when referring to Goodwin Town Forest, they call it Town Forest and he questioned this because they accepted it at town meeting and does that make it a Town Forest. Nolin stated he does deal with municipally designated Town Forests in other towns and he does deal with a committee separate from the Conservation Commission and separate from the Select Board.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Election of Officers:**

Lutjen asked for a nomination for Chairman.

**Motion** by Shackford seconded by Ohlson to nominate Lutjen as Chairman. The motion passed **unanimously**.

Lutjen asked for a nomination for Vice Chairman.

**Motion** by Ohlson seconded by Brooks to nominate Shackford as Vice Chairman. The motion passed **unanimously**.

**Conservation Scholarship:**

Young suggested she would call Bearcamp, Tin Mountain and Squam Lake to see if any students from Madison are interested in attending summer camp. Downs suggested that students could write an objective of why they are interested in participating then the Conservation Commission could make a decision. The Commission was in agreement to have Young call the three camps and find out who and how many Madison students have applied and if there is any availability.

**Ward Parcel Cut:**

Nolin stated the cut is done and he gave L. Shackford the 2023 Madison Gross Timber Proceeds Breakdown which shows the timber tax backed out of the total volumes and then a percentage of the total revenue split after the percentage of each species and then calculated the percentage of the total revenues and applied it to the timber tax.

Slader asked what the future plan for landscaping around the town hall is? Mauro stated the area to either side of the garage, not the conservation area, will be stumped and removed and the town will also gradually be removing sand from the area which will save the town approximately \$75,000.00. Once this is completed, it will be landscaped but it will take time. He further stated there will be a large pile of chips for residents to use as well as the town garage. Shackford stated that Fadden would be coming soon to pull the stumps and do the grinding work but they will not haul it away as it costs too much money so the grindings will be kept here. Shackford further stated that once it is stripped, they will strip the loam first and then the sand.

Lutjen stated he inadvertently omitted Public Comment from the Agenda.

Nolin brought up The Nature Conservancy and the work with the town as to the pitch pine management at Goodwin Burke. He further stated that Kathleen Stutzman, Graduate Research Student at University of Vermont is doing research on one of the burn units and is doing six-year measurement update on how it is regenerating based on how many years after the burn.

Nolin brought up Blair's Location and the lot south of the Transfer Station. Blair's Location has been hit hard the last few years with Gypsy moth and he has been talking with the Division of Forest and Lands about how they are managing these areas that have been hit and whether they need to wait a few years on the harvesting. Nolin stated he is meeting with Bill Davidson later in the Spring and Nolin stated they will look at this lot to see if there is another defoliation this year or it will run its course. Nolin brought up the lot south of the Transfer Station and he does want to work this around the white pine seed this year and that some of the pitch pine logs cannot be sold in the summer as there is a staining season and this would be done in the winter time.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Budget Drawdown:** Nothing to report as this time as there has been no activity.

**Account Updates:** Lutjen stated there were no changes in the accounts for March except for the Land Use Account had a \$2,000.00 disbursement for the appraisal. Lutjen stated there were no transactions or disbursements for April.

**Appraisal Update:** Lutjen stated there is a meeting scheduled for June 1st to have someone from USVLT attend to give the Chain of Ponds update.

**Kathleen Stutzman, University of Vermont:**

Young asked the Commission if they wanted Kathleen Stutzman to attend the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Lutjen stated the Commission does not usually have an August meeting. Young stated when she prepared the yearly posting, she talked with McKenna and McKenna told her to leave August meeting on. Shackford stated he would like to have Kathleen Stutzman come to the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Brooks was also in agreement and stated we could make this the only Agenda item.

**Update for UVSLT to attend June 1, 2023 meeting:**

Young stated Mike Morin, Conservation Director at USVLT confirmed he can attend the June 1, 2023 meeting for an update on the appraisal for the Chain of Ponds.

**Email from Noreen Downs dated April 10, 2023:**

Downs stated in her email dated April 10, 2023 she asked the Selectmen to reconsider reappointing McKenna to the Conservation Commission. Downs stated there was little discussion at the Selectmen's meeting about who applied for appointment and very little said about McKenna's service provided to the Commission. Downs stated she did not want to lose McKenna's history with the Commission and that McKenna should be thanked for her service. Downs would like the Select Board to be transparent. Downs further stated McKenna has a vast connection to the Chain of Ponds project and she is the lead contact with USVLT and the Conservation Fund organizations and when in negotiations, these are delicate matters.

McKenna stated she wanted to remind the Commission that the trails will need to be walked for maintenance and the access to the McNair trail is blocked by a tree. Mosher offered to remove it but does not have the equipment to do so. Shackford stated that once the DPW gets the damages to the roads from the recent storm straightened out they will then deal with the trails.

**SELECTMEN'S REPORT:** Lutjen asked Mauro what the position was on the composition of the seven men on the Commission. Mauro stated this has been discussed at every Selectboard meeting and the composition of the Board and any discussion of this should be at a Selectboard meeting and since he is the only Selectmen present, and there are two other Selectboard Members he stated this has been talked out and they are at seven members with two alternates. Downs stated in the Annual Report, there are three alternates listed and there is a vacant alternate. Downs further stated that there is an alternate listed for every year and there is a 2024 slot that is vacant and asked the Commission they take this into consideration.

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT:** *There was nothing to report.*

Lutjen asked if there was anything else to be discussed. Downs stated she had an update on the Blackenstein property on Davis Pond in which Green Mountain Conservation Group has invested \$20,000.00 into the survey and some of the pins/posts that HEB Bergeron set cannot be found and they

are researching with property owners and some of the pins/posts are under water. Downs will have a better update in June.

McKenna stated she raised a while ago, the six-part course that the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions provides for land administration and that maybe the two new Commission Members or any Commission Members would be interested in taking courses and getting a certificate which would be helpful with wetland permits.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** By Lutjen, seconded by Shackford to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned with all in favor at 4:45 pm.

Submitted by:

Katharine Young  
Land Use Boards Administrator