



**TOWN OF MADISON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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**Conservation Commission Approved Minutes
April 5, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marcia McKenna, Ralph Lutjen, Nancy Devine, Marc Ohlson, Ted Slader - Alternate and Josh Shackford- Selectman's Rep.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Emily Bass

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Nolan, Stu Lord-NH Lakes Association

MEETING POSTED: March 27, 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 MARCH 1, 2018 MINUTES: Ms. Devine made a **Motion** to approve the March 1, 2018 Draft Minutes, seconded by Mr. Slader All Approved.

NEW BUSINESS: NH LAKES MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Stu Lord, President of the NH Lakes Association gave a presentation of the purpose, scope and benefits of the NH Lakes Association and gave each Board member a packet of information. There are approx 1000 lakes in NH which are managed by hundreds of local groups and associations. NH Lakes is 25 years old, has a small office in Concord and is the only statewide non-profit organization dedicated to keeping the lakes healthy, clean and promoting responsible enjoyment. Their mission is to educate and be an advocate for the clean lakes of NH through the NH Legislature. There are 20 Board of Directors, with Ms. Devine as a Board member. They are a member-supported group with 1000 members and they sponsor the Lake Host Program, which Silver Lake participates in. One of the biggest threats is the aquatic invasive species such as milfoil and an emerging threat is aquatic invasive animals, such as Asian clams and Zebra mussels. There are currently 85 lakes which are infested and although that number increases each year, the rate of growth has slowed due to the NH Lakes Host Program. Across the State, last year there were 28 catches of invasive species off boats before they launch and 1600 catches since 2002, when the Lake Host Program began. The cost benefit of joining NH Lakes is an investment in our lakes and our natural resources. Ms. Devine asked how would the Conservation Commission support NH Lakes? Mr. Lord suggested a donation to NH Lakes from their budget. Ms. McKenna suggested that this remain on the agenda for discussion at the May meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

FORESTRY UPDATE - Mr. Nolan reported on the boundary line markers on the following Town properties: Cascades, Cedar Swamp and the Madison Elementary School.

There are 2 areas with issues - Cascades and Cedar Swamp.

1. Cascades near the Historical Society building has old wire fence along the northern boundary and should be painted as well as the western boundary where there are old blazes which need to be repainted. There is a total of 2700' which needs to be repainted, with a cost of \$277.00. This is a base line. Ms. McKenna requested Mrs. King to review the Cascade deed where the town land abuts the land owned by Charlie Allen. There was a concern that the boundary line jumped the brook and the brook is not actually the boundary line.

2. Cedar Swamp - From the Boulder, along the ROW road to the Nature Conservancy land, the condition of the blazes are poor or non-existent. There is a total of 9540' of boundary line which needs to be painted and re-blazed. Mr. Ohlson suggested approaching The Nature Conservancy to split the cost of the boundary markers as it is in their best interest to know where the lines are.

The cost to re-blaze and paint is \$.12 per foot.

Mr. Nolan reported on the Madison Elementary school boundary lines and the Ward lot where the eastern boundary line is the brook. The town owns both lots and it did not make sense to paint those boundary lines.

The only other area to check boundary lines is Hurricane Point. The deed information did not offer this information. This needs to be addressed. Ms. Devine stated that this land is less than 2 acres and there is a sign on one side. Ms. McKenna suggested that looking up the abutters' deeds would give them the information as to where the Town's boundary lines are. Mr. Ohlson stated that there should be pins to identify boundary lines.

Mr. Nolan presented a tentative proposal for a 2018 project list:

1. Re-painting/re-blazing of Cascades (est. \$240-\$280)
2. Re-painting/re-blazing of Cedar Swamp and Madison Elementary school property (est. \$1000-1200)
3. Mowing of Goodwin-Burke in July prior to Old Home Week
4. Trail maintenance on Goodwin-Burke. A separate quote was given for leaf-blowing of the trail.
5. Trail maintenance of Wold lot

Mr. Shackford asked when would this work be completed. Mr. Nolan would like to complete the re-blazing and re-painting before the leaves open on the trees.

MOTION: Mr. Shackford made a **MOTION** to approve up to \$1500.00 for the condition assessment of Cascades, Cedar Swamp, Madison Elementary School land boundaries, and the re-painting and re-blazing of Cascades and Cedar Swamp boundary lines, seconded by Ms. Devine. All Approved.

Mr. Nolan gave Mrs. King an invoice for time preparation for the boundary line reports and will update his progress at the May meeting.

Mr. Nolan asked Mr. Shackford if there was any information from about the Town of Freedom. Mr. Nolan stated that he could perform the work in late August/September.

NEW BUSINESS (Con't)

TOWN MEETING UPDATE: Mr. Shackford was concerned that the Warrant Article to charge non-residents use the boat ramp was defeated. The fees would have been used to maintain the boat ramp. The Trails were approved and now a single pole steel gate needs to be installed with cement. The Town highway crew could install the gate. Mr. Shackford will get information on the gates for the May meeting.

NH LAKES DISCUSSION : Ms. McKenna stated that they offer a small donation and build it into their budget going forward. Ms. Devine is recusing herself from this discussion. Mrs. King suggested the money could come from the Conservation training budget line to cover the donation. There was a concern whether a donation to a non-profit needs to be approved at Town meeting or could be in their budget. Mrs. King will contact Atty Gorrow. This item will remain on the agenda.

BIRDHOUSES: Mr. Slader reported that the Town Forest Management plan recommended birdhouses be installed along the ball fields which abut the Ward lot. He received an estimate from Silver Lake Hardware of \$20 for the wood per bird house and \$13 for each 8' 4"x4" wooden post to put into the ground.

Mr. Slader also bought a cedar birdhouse kit from Amazon for \$21 each. If approved, he could purchased 6 kits at \$13 each with free shipping. This price includes the nails but does not include the 8' post. Mr. Slader would pre-drill the holes for each kit. He had a meeting with Mike Lane, head of Madison Recreation Program at the Elementary School who suggested that this would be a good project for the 4th graders to assemble them. The birdhouses will not be painted and will be kept natural. The first students to sign up would get a box with 2 students per team and this would continue over a 3 week period. This will begin in May. Mr. Slader is writing a letter asking for town support from the Selectmen and the new DPW Director for the installation on Town land.

MOTION: Ms. Devine made a **MOTION** to spend \$200.00 for the purchase, construction and installation of 6 Bluebird houses, posts and hardware on the land along the Burke field ballfield. Mr. Lutjen seconded. All Approved.

OLD BUSINESS (Con't):

CURRIER ROW DEED UPDATE - Nothing to report. Will remain on Agenda

MADISON HIKING TRAIL MAP - Mr. Slader reported that he contacted the UNH Extension person regarding the Trailfinder Program. Their office is in the Rockingham County Complex in Brentwood. Mr. Slader, Ms. Devine and Mr Lutjen have scheduled a meeting in a few weeks to get back on track with the mapping of the Madison trails. There are interns who will come to Madison and help with mapping of our trails and GPS.

The Trailfinder program is regional. This will remain on the agenda.

LEAD MINE ROAD: Nothing to report - Will remain on Agenda.

LOON ISLAND: Ms. Devine received a design quote for the 14" x 11" metal sign for \$105.00 from Minuteman Signs. The signs will be located each side of the island and put on trees. Wording would be "No Fires, No Camping, Do Not Move or Remove Vegetation".

MOTION: Mr Shackford made a **MOTION** to expend up to \$150.00 for a 2 metal signs with the wording "No Fires, No Camping, Do Not Move or Remove Vegetation". Seconded by Mr. Ohlson. All Approved with funds coming from the Forest Maintenance Account.

Ms. McKenna acknowledged the email from Ron Force retracting his assistance with Loon Island. Mr. Ohlson offered to cut down and leave the tree on the island. Ms. Devine offered to accompany him and take pictures for the Town Report.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT: Mr. Shackford reported that Malcolm MacNair who owns the property that has a Conservation Easement near Durgin Pond and has expressed an interest in selling 200+ acres. Only 80 acres is in Conservation. There is \$180K available in Conservation Account for land purchases. This land has been logged several times over the last 15 years and has been under a Land Management Plan.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Mr. Ohlson reported on the lot line adjustments on Interlaken Drive and the site plan review for Hollywood Boxing and Dance from the last Planning Board meeting. The Green Mountain Conservancy group invited the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission to a free Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Ossipee Aquifer Advisory Committee on May 5 at 8:30 at the Ossipee Town Hall. There will be a presentation on the Planning for Growth in the Ossipee Aquifer. The public is invited.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Mrs. King would like to take a photograph of the Commission at the May meeting for the 2018 Town Report.

A real estate agent is interested in selling several lots land off Mooney Hill and Pound road. Mr. Ohlson reported that these lots are an old PUD. The land had been heavily logged with a second growth. There was discussion of procedure. Mr. Lutjen asked what is the attraction with this property? Ms. McKenna stated that there is a wetlands and a habitat preservation and abuts another conservation land. There is no valuable timber on the property. Mr. Shackford suggested that a review of taxes be done and what is the benefit to the town. Mr. Ohlson stated that the lots are a lot of record.

Mr. Shackford asked if Mr. Ohlson or Ms. McKenna can recall if the Town ever voted or how was it decided that the Town cannot use bio-solids in Madison. Ms. McKenna does not remember any vote or decision on this issue. Mr. Ohlson remembers Mr. Colman wanted to spread bio solids on land and the town hearing on this was heavily attended and against this practice.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Colleen King
Land Use Administrator

These Minutes were APPROVED at the May 3, 2018 Conservation Commission meeting.