

**Town of Epsom  
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 2021, at 6:00pm**

Meeting Attendees Alison Parodi-Beiling, Chair; Chad Decker, Member; Kate Champney, Member; Joy Sheehan (Budget Rep), Cheryl Gilpatrick (Selectmen Representative)

**Call to Order & Agenda**

Ms. Parodi called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

**Town Forest Update:**

Alison noted that the Town Forester is completing the map with the new trails and we should have it by January. The Town should receive an invoice for his 2021 work in early December.

**Budget and Warrant Article**

Alison questioned what was expended out of the 2021 budget. Cheryl will send an email to the Finance Administrator, Deb, and ask her to send along the information. It was also decided that Chad would present the 2022 budget to the Budget Committee on December 16<sup>th</sup> and Joy would let he and Alison know what time if times are scheduled. Cheryl asked about the expenditure amount for the Forester for 2022 and Alison noted she will get that information, so Chad knows what to present for 2022 expenditures. Cheryl also noted that some research had been done regarding the Conservation Funds, and what they can be used for, and hoped to have that information available for him as well.

The Warrant Article to possibly increase the LUCT percentage that goes to the ECC was not discussed but would be discussed at the next meeting in preparation for January.

**Sub-Committee**

Alison noted she would like to create a sub-committee for helping with the trail maintenance, and other items in the Town Forest. Cheryl noted the sub-committee should have one or two people from the Conservation Commission on it, with volunteers to join in to help. She noted any decisions regarding the Town Forest would still need to be run by the Commission but if its just work in the Town Forest being done the Commission would just need to be updated on the work at each monthly meeting. Alison noted she believes there are sub-committees in other towns that she will investigate and see how they are structured and talk about it at the next meeting.

**Bearpaw**

Alison made note that Bearpaw is looking into “Indigenous People Camps” that are noted online that folks are coming to the Forest to find. If they do indeed exist the Commission will decide if they need to be marked or noted as a site location in the Forest.

## **Kiosk**

Chad looked at the board posted at the cemetery, and it was decided it is not worth using as a kiosk for the Town Forest. Cheryl will send Bob McKechnie's info to Chad so they could possibly build a small kiosk with a roof for posting a laminated Trail Map on and have copies of the maps available. The idea is to also have a scannable item on the map so people can download the map to their cell phones.

## **Other Business:**

### **Chichester Conservation Commission - Deer Meadow Pond Request**

Alison discussed a request she received from the Chichester Conservation Commission to participate in financial help to treat Dear Meadow Pond with a second round of milfoil treatment. The State provided the first treatment at no cost to the Towns. Cheryl noted this issue was brought to the Selectmen a while back and they knew about the first treatment and that the State may eventually be looking for help with the second one. Alison noted they stated that the breakdown provided was that 51% of the pond is in Epsom and 19% is in Chichester. The Members wondered where the other percentage is located. She then noted that they are looking for Epsom to pay \$4,374 of the \$5,400 cost and Chichester would pay \$1,026. The Members noted that the cost seemed disproportionate, especially with five houses in Chichester on the pond and seven (four houses and three land only properties) in Epsom. Although it was noted that most of the Pond is in Epsom. They also wondered if the breakdown should be determined by assessed valuation or for the number of residences? Alison will forward the Chichester Commission's request to Andrea for the BOS to review. Cheryl noted this is a big expenditure to put into a budget that is already in process for 2022.

**Incident at the Town Forest:** Alison briefly discussed an incident that happened between an out-of-town visitor to the Town Forest and an Epsom resident. The out-of-town visitor called her to make sure she was apprised of what happened and apologized for his part in the incident.

Next meeting date December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Chad Motioned to Adjourn. Kate Second. Motion passed 30. Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

**FINAL  
DRAFT**

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