Town of Epsom – Conservation Commission Approved

Meeting of January 19, 2023

**Town of Epsom**

**Conservation Commission meeting minutes**

**Epsom Town Offices**

**January 19, 2023, 6 PM**

**Present**

Chad Decker, vice chair

Robyn Sweeney-Blaise, commissioner

Kate Champney, commissioner

Meadow Wysocki, selectmen representative

Kim Gillis, Chuck Scheys, and Frankie Scheys, members of the public

Ronald Klemarczyk, Town forester

**Call to order**

Vice chair Decker called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

**Agenda review**

Mr. Decker stated that he still had not changed Webster Pond to deer Meadow Pond and amended the agenda. He Also added the appointment of commissioners and election of officers to the agenda.

Robyn moved to except the agenda as amended and Kate seconded. Motion passed 4–0.

Approval of minutes were moved to the end of the meeting so the town Forester could give the update on the forest management plan.

**Town Forest Update**

If the plan is to Forest harvest timber, then significant improvements to the class 6 road would be needed. Some of the timber sale from the lower portion could pay for road improvements further up the road. One possibility to keep the road from degradation is to put a gate at the right of way connection with the class 6 Road or right at the entrance to the park after the parking lot. In order to be able to lock the gate we would need to vote to declassify the rest of the road as class 6, we are on both sides so could vote to do so. The Commission needs to decide whether to timber harvest or not and whether or not to put a trail around the new Barton property. The Forester suggests that skidder trails and hiking trails remain separate. ATVs are using trails on the eastern side of the forest and mentioned that NH State Fish & Game has been better about enforcing the no use law. If you go to NH State Fish & Game after having tracked down the owners of the ATV, you can tell NH Fish & Game you followed them to their house and they may go and chat with the owners. Next step for the Commission is to walk the road and the possible timber sights close to snow melt in the spring. Then schedule another day to walk the potential trail keeping in mind that there is impact to wildlife especially around wetland areas and will need to be conscientious.

**Deer Meadow Pond**

Kim Gillis, Chuck and Frankie Scheys gave a presentation on Deer Meadow Pond milfoil treatment. They are looking for funds from the Commission to have a second treatment done as about 88% of the pond is in Epsom although residences are split evenly between Chichester and Epsom on the pond. They gave a brief history of the pond and its importance in the community and environment. The concern is that this would be an ongoing treatment need and ongoing fund need, as well as the precedent it would set for other ponds in town needing/wanting treatment. Would need to talk to the Selectmen regarding allocation of funds which would take into consideration the Conservation Commission recommendations. Treatment would not be done until 2024 because the deadline was missed for 2023 and inspections of the milfoil will continue to be done by Amy Smagula at NHDES.

**Approval of Minutes**

Miss Champney moved to approve the December 15 minutes as written. Ms. Sweeney-Blaise seconded.

The motion passed 4–0.

**Election of Officers**

Chad Decker is the only one up for renewal of his appointment to the Commission which the Selectmen will do at their next meeting.

New election of officers was done, after Ms. Wysocki heard from Allison about her inability to continue on as chair and member of the Commission. Ms. Sweeney-Blaise was nominated to be chair and Mr. Decker was nominated to be vice chair the election passed 4–0.

**Town Forest Camping Policy**

The camping policy, which is on the Google Drive will be tabled until the next meeting.

**Other**

Ms. Wysocki stated that the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission (NHACC) meeting presentations were purchased and available on the Google Drive.

**Public input**

None

**Next meeting**

February 16, 6 PM

Ms. Sweeney-Blaise motioned to adjourn. Ms. Champney seconded the motion. The motion passed 4–0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Sweeney-Blaise

Commissioner