



Town of Middleton

182 Kings Highway, Middleton, New Hampshire 03887

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2021

Call to Order: Carol Vita-Chair called to order at 6:38 PM.

Roll Call:

Carol Vita-Chair: Present
John Mullen-Vice Chair/Clerk: Present
Thomas Gardner-Member: Present
Kate Buzard-Alternate: Present
Jim Keegan-Alternate: Present

Member of the Public:

Beth Kimmey-4 Tanglewood Drive
Vernon LeBlanc-120 Lakeshore Drive
John Lubold-102 Lakeshore Drive

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Opening Remarks: Welcomed residents to the meeting.

Review of Past Minutes: T. Gardner made a motion to accept the minutes of March 16, 2021 as transcribed. C Vita seconded the motion.

Vote: C. Vita yea, J. Mullen yea. T. Gardner abstained March minutes 2 yeas 0 nays 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Correspondences

- Monthly MMRG Letter
- CC Memo to BOS status of email and voicemail.
- CC Memo to Town Treasurer requesting more detailed info on Conservation Fund.
- CC Memo to BOS Dept Head Report for April 12, 2021
- Ltr to C. Vita from Cochecho River Local Advisory Committee.
- CC Ltr to Arin Mills, NH DOT on branch river culvert work on Rte 153
- Strafford County Conservation 2020 Annual Report.

- **Soak Up the Rain Program:** J. Mullen & C. Vita introduced the NH DES program to the Commission. It was explained this was a fully State and Federal funded program to assist individual lake property owners to better manage water runoff. The program will provide individual owners suggestions and assisting in carrying out the recommendations. It was further noted that a “Kick Off Meeting” for this program as well as the Sunrise Lake Management Plan will be conducted this coming June 5th at the Sunrise Lake Lands Association Beach. Further details will be released in the weeks ahead.

Old Business

- **Sunrise Lake Water Shed Management Plan:** J. Mullen offered that an update and introduction to the plan will be made in conjunction with the “Soak Up the Rain” will be made to the public on June 5th, as mentioned above. SCRCP has contacted town about providing a place to deposit completed survey forms. J. Mullen will determine if the Town Website can provide an online means of the survey instead of a hard copy. Mailing costs were discussed and means. Member of the public, Beth Kimmey suggested contacting Quantum Digital for means of distribution. J. Mullen offered to investigate means of distribution. No discussion on helping SCRCP and the Plan in assisting in cost of mailings.
- **Proposed By-Laws:** Discussion was postponed to the next regular meeting.

New Business:

- **Blueberry Hill Property:** General discussion continued. J. Mullen offered an on the site walk on April 2, 2021 with C. Kimball and Rebecca DiGirolomo, Natural Resources Field Specialist, Forestry, UNH Cooperative Extension. The site walk took three hours and managed to walk about two miles up and around. Did not reach summit or blueberry fields. An email from R. DiGirolomo was shared describing the property as was seen. The property showed a dominate forest of American beech with scattered red oak. It was noted of some old logging trails/roads and that the terrane was quite hilly. Additionally, we observed lots of deer and bear sign. A recommendation was made that the town have the boundaries marked for future use. It was noted that an abutting property in New Durham is under the process of becoming put into conservation. J. Keegan continued to propose opening the property to trails for ATV's. He indicated that a local neighboring ATV clubs was contacted about meeting with the Commission to discuss trails.
- **Tanglewood:** Discussions continued how to proceed with the development of the property. J Mullen explained again that the Town Attorney advised that for the

Town to be able to do anything with any Town property they needed that authority to be made by the Town residents. He also indicated that that we could merge all lots into one by proceeding through the Planning Board. No survey would be needed. Additionally, C. Kimball continues to investigate available grants from such sources as LCHIP to fund property improvements. However, she offered that we need a plan if we are to apply for grants. J. Mullen offered that NH Trails also has grants available. Discussions continued what to do with the property if anything. Attending residents, particular Beth Kimmey of 4 Tanglewood Drive, expressed support of the use of Tanglewood, but was concerned about the impact of improvements would have on traffic to the site. She along with other residents expressed concerns about cars and trash at the site if major improvements were made. T. Thomas he felt the intent of looking at the property was to make it available to all residents of Middleton and make it more accessible to physically challenged residents. Making trails safer would be a good thing. Continued discussions about improvements, funding etc. were discussed. It was noted that most of the individual lots are owned by the town, that there are still seven private property owners and a few Conservation Commission owned properties. Discussion will continue at future meetings. No decision was made, and further discussion will continue at subsequent meetings.

- **“Sunrise Lake Chronical”:** J. Mullen offered a new newsletter that was published quarterly to inform lake and town residents what is happening such as “ice out” and “ice in” times, milfoil treatment, water testing etc. He indicated that his first distribution was to each association and a small list of residents currently in J. Mullen mailing list. The reception to the publication seems positive. J. Mullen will ask the publication to be put on the Town Website and will continue to explore means of distribution.

Public Comments: Most of the discussion by members of the public was on the development of the Tanglewood property as noted above.

Members Comments: Most of the discussion center around Tanglewood and its future.

Motion to adjourn by C. Vita, seconded by T. Gardner.

Vote: C. Vita yea, J. Mullen yea, T. Gardner yea. Results: 3 yeas 0 nays. Motioned carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 PM.

Respectively Submitted: John A. Mullen Jr., Clerk