



Town of Middleton

182 Kings Highway, Middleton, New Hampshire 03887

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2021

Call to Order: Carol Vita-Chair called to order at 10:10AM.

Roll Call: Present: Carol Vita, John Mullen, Cheryl Kimball-Alternate. Absent: Thomas Gardner, Ex-Offico. Quorum Present. Guest: Jim Keegan, Kate Buzard

Opening Remarks: Welcomed Kate Buzard to the meeting. The Chair appointed Cheryl Kimble as a voting member for this meeting.

Review of Past Minutes: J Mullen made a motion to accept the minutes of February 16, 2021 as transcribed. C Kimball seconded the motion.

Vote: C. Vita yea, J. Mullen yea. C. Kimball yea: February minutes 3 yeas 0 nays 0 abstained. Motion/s carried.

New Business:

- **Membership Nominations:**

- J Mullen explained that his term expires the end of March and was requesting a reappointment by the Commission for a term through March 2024. C Kimball made motion to nominate J. Mullen to a new 3-year term ending March 2024. C. Vita seconded.

Vote: C. Vita yea, J. Mullen yea., C. Kimball yea. Results: 3 yeas 0 nays. Motioned carried. The Clerk will forward a memo of recommendation to the BOS for action on the nomination.

- J. Mullen motioned that Kate Buzard of Gary Road, Middleton be appointed as an Alternate Member. C. Vita seconded. J. Mullen offered that Mrs. Buzard, a long-time resident of Middleton and was a past active member of the Conservation Commission and instrumental in the development of the Tanglewood Property. Her commitment to the environment and protecting and preserving Middleton's natural resources will bring knowledge and expertise to the Commission.

Vote: C. Vita yea, J. Mullen yea. C. Kimball yea: February minutes 3 yeas 0 nays 0 abstained. Motion/s carried.

- **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.
- **Blueberry Hill Property:** General discussion continued. J. Mullen offered an informal history of the property and its abutting Town lot. C. Kimball updated on the site visit which will most likely happen April 2, 2021. Joining the Commission on the site walk will be Rebecca DiGirolomo, Natural Resources Field Specialist, Forestry, UNH Cooperative Extension. J. Keegan continued to propose opening the property to trails for ATV's. He offered that possible cooperation from neighboring ATV clubs would help in their construction and maintenance.
- **Tanglewood:** Discussions continued how to proceed with the development of the property. J. Mullen explained 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. In the case of Tanglewood, we would have to offer a Warrant Article at a Town Meeting listing each map and lot of proposed properties. J. Mullen offered that further investigation was needed as to the proper approach. C. Kimball offered that we need to follow the Town's Master Plan when suggesting uses for the Town's open space. To proceed with recommendations to the BOS on use of the she proposed that we investigate the merging of all lots into one. J. Mullen offered to investigate the process. Additionally, C. Kimball offered to further 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. A suggestion from C. Kimball that we entertain the possible enlistment of a design consultant on how to best improve the property. J. Mullen offered that the Commission does have over \$50,000 in the Conservation Fund to do such studies.

• **Revitalization Plans:**

- **Proposed By-Laws:** J Mullen advised that the CC By-laws are not governed by any N<H Statute. The CCA of NH recommends, however, that they be coordinated with the BOS. Provided each member with a hard copy of the proposed By-Laws and asked them to review them.
- **Meeting Time:** J. Mullen brought up the notion to change the meeting time from its current AM time frame to evening. This would afford more public participation. J. Mullen made a motion to change the time from 10:00 AM every third Tuesday of the month to a time of 6:30 PM. No second. C. Vita indicated that getting to an evening meeting would not be workable for her. J. Mullen rescinded his motion. Further discussion was held, and it was suggested that we try the new time for two months. J. Mullen offered a new motion to have the next two meetings, April and May at 6:30 PM. C. Kimball seconded. Members did offer C. Vita some transportation to and from the meeting.

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

Public Comments: None

Members Comments: J Mullen suggested that we could hold WorkShop meetings during the day to further explore topics. C. Kimball offered that this would limit the regular meeting to a reasonable time.

Motion to adjourn by J Mullen, Seconded by C. Vita.

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

Meeting adjourned 11:15 AM.

Respectively Submitted: John A. Mullen Jr., Clerk