Cindy Robertson called the meeting to order at 4:07pm.

Present: Cindy Robertson-Chair, JoCarol Woodburn-Member, Phil Fitanides-Member, Deborah Miville-Member, John Pieroni-Alternate, William Herlicka-Alternate, Alex Walczyk-Town Council Representative (via Zoom)

Not Present: David Ross-Vice Chair, Robert Better-Alternate

Staff: Leann Fuller, Administrative Assistant

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

I. Consent Agenda

i. Wetlands Permit-by-Notification for Nancy Smith

ii. State of NH Shoreland Permit by Notification for NHDOT bridge maintenance project

Deborah Miville motioned to approve the Consent agenda, seconded by JoCarol Woodburn.

Roll Call #1
Phil Fitanides: Yes
JoCarol Woodburn: Yes
Deborah Miville: Yes
Alex Walczyk: Yes
Cindy Robertson: Yes

Motion passed.

II. Meeting Minutes Approvals
- September 14, 2020

JoCarol Woodburn motioned to approve the meeting minutes from September 14th, 2020 as drafted, seconded by Deborah Miville.

Roll Call #2
Phil Fitanides: Yes
JoCarol Woodburn: Yes
Deborah Miville: Yes
Alex Walczyk: Yes
Cindy Robertson: Yes

Conservation Commission (INSERT DATE)
III. Appointments

i. Steve Couture, Bear-Paw Consultant
   - Hooksett Riverwalk Habitat Management Plan
   - University Heights Parking Access
   - Other business

Steve Couture will join the meeting around 5:00pm. This will be pushed to further into the meeting. Cindy clarified that University Heights Parking Access discussion will require more information. Cindy recommended moving this item to the November meeting. The members of the Conservation Commission agreed.

ii. Joseph Paredez, Hooksett Kiwanis
    Donation of 2 benches for the Merrimack Riverwalk Trail

Joe was unable to obtain enough information to present to the Conservation Commission tonight. He will contact Leann once he is able to gain additional information.

IV. Invoices

i. Bear-Paw August and September 2020 Stewardship Invoices

JoCarol Woodburn made a motion to approve Bear-Paw invoice #10212 in the amount of $900.00 for August and September stewardship work, seconded by Deborah Miville.

Roll Call #3

Phil Fitanides: Yes
JoCarol Woodburn: Yes
Deborah Miville: Yes
Alex Walczyk: Yes
Cindy Robertson: Yes

Motion passed.

ii. WorkSafe Invoice for 2 “No Motorized Vehicles” signs with posts and hardware $172.80

JoCarol Woodburn made a motion to approve the WorkSafe invoice for 2 “No Motorized Vehicles” signs with posts and hardware in the amount of $172.80, seconded by Deborah Miville.

Deborah Miville asked if “electric bikes” can be used on the trails. Cindy stated that this is one of those brand new items for discussion. The concerns are the speed because they can go faster. Cindy recommended speaking with Bear-Paw and the NH Association for Conservation Commissions to see how they have handled those.

Bill Herlicka explained his thoughts on E-Bikes. Technically, they count as a motor vehicle just like an electric Harley Davidson counts as a motorcycle. The torque of the electric motor is what digs up the dirt as they start.

John Pieroni has been seeing speed limit signs on trails.

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Roll Call #4
Phil Fitanides: Yes
JoCarol Woodburn: Yes
Deborah Miville: Yes
Alex Walczyk: Yes
Cindy Robertson: Yes

Motion passed.

iii. Portland Glass Invoice for 2 new panels for the Merrimack Riverwalk Kiosk $180.00

JoCarol Woodburn explained that this invoice is for the plexiglass panels on the Hooksett Riverwalk Trail kiosk. The left and right panel were replaced. The original quote was for $200.00 but because they were late getting the panels in, they gave a 10% discount. The panels have been installed and look great. There is also a new trail map as well. Cindy Robertson mentioned that Nancy Smith did express her appreciation for the new map as well as lowering the signs to eye level.

Deborah Miville made a motion to approve the Portland Glass invoice for 2 new panels for the Merrimack Riverwalk Kiosk in the amount of $180.00, seconded by Phil Fitanides.

Roll Call #5
Phil Fitanides: Yes
JoCarol Woodburn: Yes
Deborah Miville: Yes
Alex Walczyk: Yes
Cindy Robertson: Yes

Motion passed.

iv. NH Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Dues $650.00

JoCarol Woodburn made a motion to approve payment of the Annual Dues to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions in the amount of $650.00, seconded by Deborah Miville.

Phil Fitanides asked what the annual dues pays for. Cindy Robertson stated that it is for legislative work, the annual meeting and support to name a few.

Roll Call #6
Phil Fitanides: Yes
JoCarol Woodburn: Yes
Deborah Miville: Yes
Alex Walczyk: Yes
Cindy Robertson: Yes

Motion passed.
V. Projects, Events, Etc.

i. NHACC Annual Meeting and Conference

This year is a virtual meeting. Deborah Miville mentioned that they have narrowed down the topics as well, but it would be good for people who are new the Conservation Commission. Deborah has decided not to attend this year. John Pieroni may be interested.

ii. Bear-Paw Conservation Commission Gathering: Tuesday, October 20th from 1pm-4pm

Cindy Robertson is unable to attend. Cindy did ask Katrina about Zoom and Katrina could do it by phone for the first hour and hear what is going on. Leann will send the information to Bill Herlicka who is able to attend via phone.

iii. Head’s Pond Stewardship Plan- Next steps: Mark the Conservation boundaries and public hearing

Cindy Robertson updated the Conservation Commission on her meeting with the School Board. Swift Corwin was in attendance as well. Previously, the School Board’s main concern was liability. The School Board’s biggest concern is they don’t want any steps taken that will affect their ownership or what they may want to do with the parcel in the future. Cindy informed them the Stewardship Plan is just to let them know what is on their property. Swift did see a lot of ATV damage on that property. Primarily due to new communities. Swift does recommend marking the Conservation properties with boundary markers. Cindy did reach out to Steve to see if Bear-Paw could install those markers. Currently, there is no delineation between land boundaries. Bill Herlicka liked the idea of the medallion markers but also recommended putting a letter out to the neighborhoods as well. This will make them aware that this property is around them and ATV use is not permitted.

Cindy Robertson recommended reviewing the easements more in depth to make sure ATV use is prohibited. Cindy also stated that the public meeting is intended to hear what the abutters have to say about the area.

iv. Mosquitos

Phil Fitanides explained that there are two towns in Maine that use dragonflies to assist with taking care of mosquitos. Phil has tested it out and ordered some dragonflies and was impressed. The dragonflies are not invasive. The dragonflies would come in stages, so they are hatching constantly. Phil did not know how long they last. They do have to be ordered ahead of time. Phil thought it was around $30,000 per season.

Cindy Robertson requested that Phil send a link to Leann. It would be beneficial to contact those Town’s conservation department and find out what they did and how they carried this out.

Cindy Robertson asked Alex Walczyk about his conversation with Earl Labonte regarding bees and spraying. Alex stated that the pesticides are heavily controlled substances that require special permits and licenses to apply the products including a special supervisor. The Town of Hooksett does not do the spraying. Alex recommended checking with Earl or André whether the fields are sprayed or not.

John Pieroni recommended finding communities that are not large salt marshes as Wells and Ogunquit are and not on the coast.

Conservation Commission Minutes 10/19/2020
v. 2021 Meeting Schedule

Leann Fuller supplied the 2021 meeting schedule. The only meeting that has a conflict due to a Holiday is the October meeting. The Conservation Commission agreed to schedule the October meeting to October 18 at 4:00pm as Planning Board will follow that meeting.

_Cindy Robertson made a motion to approve the 2021 meeting schedule as amended, seconded by JoCarol Woodburn._

_Roll Call #7_
_Phil Fitanides: Yes_
_JoCarol Woodburn: Yes_
_Deborah Miville: Yes_
_Alex Walczyk: Yes_
_Cindy Robertson: Yes_

_Motion passed._

VI. Appointment

i. Steve Couture, Bear-Paw Consultant
   - Hooksett Riverwalk Habitat Management Plan

Steve Couture, Contractor for Bear-Paw, spoke about the fields on the Merrimack Riverfront property. At the last meeting, there was some conversation about them, and the Commission formalized the process. Steve recalls that the mowing of the fields was an ad-hoc item just for the fields to be mowed. In the last Conservation Commission meeting, Steve noticed in the minutes that the fields were being hayed and used for agricultural purposes. Steve wanted to inform the Conservation Commission that they are just being mowed, they are not being used for hay. At that meeting, the Commission did authorize Bear-Paw to investigate developing a plan for managing the fields. Steve did supply an estimate from Osprey Ecological Services, Tom Brightman who is a former employee of the NH Fish and Game. Tom specifically working with habitat management in agricultural purposes. Steve is seeking approval form the Conservation Commission to approve scope of work which will be under the existing Bear-Paw contract Stewardship contract with Hooksett. There is a site walk scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 10:30am. Tom would evaluate the fields and come up with recommendations. The contract does note that the recommendations would be delivered prior to the December 2020 Conservation Commission meeting. The cost could be less than $750 depending on the amount of time spent in the field.

JoCarol Woodburn asked if the recommendation would include the best timeframe to mow the property and minimize the impact to species?

Steve Couture stated that it would specify the time of year. It could be used as the basis on hiring a specialist to implement the recommendations.

Phil Fitanides left the room at 5:07pm.
John Pieroni was appointed to vote in Phil’s absence.
Cindy Robertson motioned to approve moving forward with Bear-Paw contracting with Osprey Ecological Services regarding the Hooksett meadow property in an amount not to exceed $750, seconded by Alex Walczyk.

Roll Call #8
John Pieroni: Yes
Jo Carol Woodburn: Yes
Deborah Miville: Yes
Alex Walczyk: Yes
Cindy Robertson: Yes

Motion passed.

Phil entered the room at 5:10pm

Cindy Robertson motioned to adjourn at 5:12pm, seconded by Phil Fitnides.

Roll Call #9
Phil Fitnides: Yes
Jo Carol Woodburn: Yes
Deborah Miville: Yes
Alex Walczyk: Yes
Cindy Robertson: Yes

Motion passed.

Minutes respectively submitted by

Leann Fuller
Administrative Assistant

Please see subsequent meeting minutes for any amendments to these minutes.