

**Somersworth Conservation Commission**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**July 14, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeremy Degler  
Angela Ficco  
Mercedes O'Donohue  
Scott Orzechowski  
Jeremy Rhodes  
Dale Smith-Kenyon

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sarah Eckstein

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michelle Mears

The meeting was called to order by S Orzechowski at 6:04 pm.

**1. Approval of Meeting Minutes.**

Regular Meeting of 6/9/2021

The following correction was noted:

4.H, Forestry representative is Rebecca DiGirolomo of the UNH Cooperative Extension.

Motion to approve as amended by D. Smith-Kenyon, seconded by M. O'Donohue.

Approved 6-0-1 (S Orzechowski abstaining)

Workshop Meeting of 6/24/2021 (Works Nature Trail Site Walk)

Add note that an invasive management plan will be a component of the remediation effort.

Motion to approve as amended by A. Ficco, seconded by M. O'Donohue

Approved 5-0-2 (D. Smith-Kenyon, J. Degler abstaining)

**2. Public Comment**

No comments received

**3. New Business**

A. Sustainability Committee Report

No report at this time

B. Getting map coordinates for easement monitoring

Michelle stated conversation with SRPC ongoing; they need a prioritized list of our easements to proceed. A. Ficco will provide with S. Eckstein's assistance.

Sunningdale and Malley Farm are the top priorities; M. Mears will pursue these two sites.

C. Unauthorized tree cutting, trail signs and bridge construction at The Oaks 2 easement

Proud past, bright future

S. Orzechowski will contact the individual who was discussing this work; M. Mears will ensure that code enforcement contacts as well. This appears to be an existing trail system that has been recut and modified. This work is on conservation land.

D. City invasives controls

S. Orzechowski will reach out to Rebecca DiGirolomo to develop a plan for the City Manager. Intent is to assist the city with budgeting for control efforts.

E. Entomologist walks

A. Ficco has met with the US Forest Service Entomologist; this individual is acting as a private citizen and reached out on learning about the Mayor's Monarch Butterfly pledge. They will look into establishing a walk. This is related to the Mayor's pledge; a network of approximately 300 mayors and tribal leaders who are seeking to raise awareness and support habitat for monarch butterflies along their migratory route in response to the species' declining numbers. Goal is to encourage additional habitat space, focusing on food sources including milkweed and nectar-bearing plants. Primary sites under consideration are Ash St. Playground, Malley Farm, and city schools. Will also look to increase involvement throughout the city.

F. Backyard habitat promotion

S. Orzechowski has spoken to mayor regarding this effort. Emplacement of habitat including native plants throughout city should be encouraged; in addition to wildlife and plant diversity benefits, native plants require far less care than exotics.

G. DES stewardship plan for 53 Coles Pond Road easement

M. Mears has worked with the DES to establish the plan; it's compliant and approved. Monitoring will be required. Copies of the plan will be distributed to the committee.

H. Detailed 53 Coles Pond Road baseline

Baseline has been completed; will be distributed to the committee. Walk noted numerous varieties of wildlife, including bobcat. Some invasives noted; management will be required.

I. Any other new business

None

4. **Old Business**

A. Easement monitoring

No updates at this time.

B. Wetland encroachment at former well parcel

M. Mears has checked site; commission requests SRPC assistance with mitigation recommendation. M. Mears will work with this item

C. ATV trespassing

Expect update in next session.

D. MEMBER ITEMS, SUB-COMMITTEE ITEMS, AND REPORTS

a. Low-flow showerheads

S. Orzechowski will work with city mayor around logistics.

- E. Update regarding the property at 53 Coles Pond Road purchase Closing and paperwork filing is complete.
- F. Update on remediation at Steven E. Brown Willand Drive property M. Mears will follow up regarding reseeding/planting.
- G. Any other old business that may come before the Commission
  - S. Eckstein is up for full membership; some paperwork needed to complete before Council vote.
  - Tree City USA signs – we do qualify for this. S. Eckstein/S. Orzechowski in process on including signage at city entrances.
  - Indigo Hill Shed in wetland: Violation notice has been sent; code enforcement will follow up with landowner.
  - Whippoorwill tree plantings are going in this fall.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

No report delivered this month; position is open.

D. Smith-Kenyon moves to adjourn, M. O'Donohue seconds. Approved Unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

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Jeremy Rhodes  
Conservation Commission Secretary

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Attachments: