

**Somersworth Conservation Commission**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**November 10, 2021**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeremy Degler  
Sarah Eckstein

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michelle Mears

The meeting was called to order by S **Orzechowski** at 6:05 pm.

1. Recognition of Mercedes O'Donohue for her contributions to the Conservation Commission and the city

Mercedes has decided not to renew her appointment to the commission; the group thanks her for her service to the commission and the city

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Regular meeting of 9/8/21

Corrections:

- 4F – The correct spelling is Shawn's Way.
- Discussion regarding Whipoorwill property – clarification: Cutting is not permitted rather than should be avoided.

D. Smith-Kenyon moves to approve, A. Ficco seconds. Motion Carries 5-0-0

3. **Public Comment**

No public comments received

4. **New Business**

A. Sustainability Committee Report

Report provided by S. Eckstein, delivered by S. Orzechowski.

The committee met on 10/21 and discussed goals and actions regarding 2030 plan; vote was to complete discussion before sharing with Conservation Commission/City Council/Mayor's Office.

Committee toured the local hydroelectric generation plant. Power generation is expected to increase, and continue to be sold on ISO market.

B. Getting map coordinates for easement monitoring

M. Mears has been working with SRPC. GIS map later was recently updated, the first update since 2012. This update includes the recently acquired Lily Pond parcel.

C. Press Release/Newsletter Item on:

- i. Coles Pond Purchase
- ii NWF Somersworth Helping Wildlife Project

Press releases on both items have been provided to City Newsletter, Mayor's Office, and UNH Cooperative Extension

D. NWF Somersworth Helping Wildlife Project Certification Requirements and Achievements; Update on Overall Project

Posted link on conservation page, including the certification process and requirements. Also posted resident and homeowner tips and information. Since registration, 2 responses have been received, but missing NWF packet and profile. S. Orzechowski is pursuing, but expressed concerns regarding responsiveness of NWF. Will continue to push, with the possibility of a refund request if no action seen.

E. Correspondence with UNH Cooperative Extension and New Hampshire Public Radio Regarding Recent City Achievements

S. Orzechowski has reached out to NHPR to gauge interest in running a story. Part of this work included an itemized list of accomplishments, with will also be distributed for additions and provided to the city for publication.

F. Any Other New Business

None

## 5. **Old Business**

A Backyard Habitat Promotion

See above; discussed in new business

B. Easement Monitoring

- i Update on Medical Mile 2: Code Enforcement, Vernal Pool Identification

S. Eckstein will get email to M. Mears for code enforcement issues and will coordinate with J. Degler to check vernal pools in the spring. D. Smith-Kenyon has contacted DPW for assistance with removing the cable noted on site.

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

S. Orzechowski and D. Smith-Kenyon are working on an invasives subcommittee; need was highlighted at Lily Pond property site walk.

D. Update on remediation at Steven E. Brown Willand Drive property

M. Mears checked site, and it appears that grass has taken root sufficiently. Site is in compliance.

E. Update on Malley Farm Cottontail Release Planning

A. Ficco contacted NH F&G on 10/19 for update and work toward spring release. F&G has responded indicating that this is a possibility as they're expecting rabbits to be delivered. Draft proposal has been resent; response from the city is required. M. Mears will follow up on city's portion.

F. Getting Lily Pond Property into Granitview and to SRPC

Requirements have been found and S. Orzechowski has partially completed. M. Mears will work with SRPC and NHDES; NHDES may have taken care of this as part of their work with the purchase.

G. Entomologist Walk Update

S. Orzechowski connected with with NRCS regarding possibility; ongoing with an eye towards a spring walk.

H. Any other old business that may come before the Commission

S. Orzechowski and S. Eckstein attended the NHACC conference; this included a NHF&G wildlife corridor map; noted that our purchase of Lily Pond property connected into one of the corridors. Many good resources are noted on the site.

The Works trail has been approved; M. Mears will follow up to confirm timing of work.

Liberty Mutual Service day plans are being set; not yet determined if there will be a day set in 2022. J. Rhodes is monitoring.

A. Ficco requests update on non-land use tax funding; S. Orzechowski will follow up with council.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

NHACC dues have been paid, and there have ben land use tax deposited.  
Current balance on hand is \$159,164.34 as of 10/31/2021

D. Smith-Kenyon moves to adjourn, A. Ficco seconds. Approved 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

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Jeremy Rhodes  
Conservation Commission Secretary