

**SOMERSWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Hamilton
Dale Smith-Kenyon
Scott Orzechowski
Angela Ficco
Sarah McGraw
Jeremy Rhodes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shane Conlin

STAFF PRESENT: Shanna B. Saunders, Director of Planning and Community Development.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1) Approval of meeting minutes

Following changes proposed by L. Hamilton:

- Pg 2, Line 4: Strike of
- Pg 2, Line 5: Add 'to get an appeal report'
- Pg 2, Paragraph 1, 3rd line: add 'discussed value of attending culvert presentation'
- Correct Conlin's experience is 7 years, not hours
- Last Page: Dale's title is Vice Chair rather than indicated

Dale will submit modified minutes. Dale moves to accept with indicated changes. Larry seconds. All vote to approve, except Jeremy (abstained as not present at prior meeting)

2) Old Business

A) Commission Handbook update.

Checklist submitted by Sarah McGraw will be added to the handbook; Dale will submit with her changes.

Page 4, Site Walks: Remove 'in emergency situations'

Page 5, Applicant Process: Add 'or as amended from time to time'

Page 6, 6.4: Add 'as appropriate or necessary'

Section B, Report: Need to determine responsibility and nature for report format; derives from planning. This has typically been a single paragraph from each board comprising a general purpose/mission statement. We could ask for more space. 2016's is submitted 2017 is expected. No regular schedule to these. Dale will handle our end of this when needed.

D.5: Joe Bald Fund; Nobody seems to have information on this fund. Jeremy will check state unclaimed property. Last reference seems to be in the 2008-2010 range. Scott will follow up on last known address. If neither of these pan out, will remove.

H.2 Note that timing has been changed to 5 business days. Minutes are submitted in draft form and finalized on acceptance

B) Land conservation strategies.

Draft letter distributed by Sarah. Changes noted are to section regarding potential funding; change to reflect that 'we may be able to help determine available funding assistance'. Next steps are to discuss letter with City Manager; Manager will then inform council prior to letter being sent.

C) Information on the Wildlife Heritage Fund regarding aquatic insect education.

Shane (new member) to provide dates regarding Dragonfly program.

- D) Any other old business that may come before the Commission.
No other new business noted.

3) New Business

- A) Prioritization of recommendations from the Somersworth Natural Resources Assessment.

Plan on discussing at next session.

Angela discussed the prospects if installing a story trail based on Peter Rabbit or Benjamin Bunny at Malley Farm, to highlight the possibilities of the site as a habitat for the endangered New England Cottontail. There's the potential of a guided walk on the site as well. This would be modeled on similar walks in the area, including Rollinsford's Winnie the Pooh trail. Trails at this site do interlink with existing Rollinsford trails as well.

- B) Somersworth Sustainability Committee report.
See prior meeting minutes regarding Tree City USA session
- C) Member items and reports.
Scott noted a message sent regarding Bee-Friendly Gardens
- D) Treasurer's reports.
Current balance in account is \$126,091.64
- E) Any other new business that may come before the Commission.
None noted

4) Workshop Business

- A) Any workshop business that may come before the Commission.
None noted

Motion: Larry moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dale

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary