

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, April 11, 2018**

The April monthly meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission took place at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway.

Present: Chairman Rob Adair, Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler, Linda Kearney, Treasurer; Nat Lucy, Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers, Theresa Gallagher, Recording Secretary

Absent: Karla Allen, Dan Lucy, Pat Ferland

Also Attending: Jesse Lyman of North Conway

1. **Approval of the Minutes for March 14, 2018: Chairman Rob Adair asked for a motion to accept the March 14, 2018 meeting minutes; Dave Weathers noted that on page 2, #4, the bridge will be closed going “northbound” should be added. Linda Kearney made a motion to accept the March 14, 2018 meeting minutes as amended; seconded by Dave Weathers. Rob Adair called for a vote to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed. (4-0-1). Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler abstained as he was not present at the meeting.**
2. Public Comment: Jesse Lyman spoke to the CCC about the Rec Path by Pudding Pond; he has spent the last 20 years in that area and has concerns about the proposed pavement on the path. He’s not comfortable with that. Chairman Rob Adair explained that he has been involved with this project for over 10 years, and as an avid mountain biker he would avoid pavement at all costs. However, he realized that the pavement does have some useful benefits, offering accessibility to people who otherwise would not be able to use the path, such as little kids on balanced bikes, wheel chairs, baby carriages, etc. He confirmed that the plan is to pave the entire path, while staying off the peripheral of the property as much as possible. Rob Adair reported that he is meeting with Burr Phillips tomorrow, and is willing to consider Jesse Lyman’s perspective of the path. The boardwalk that crosses the output of Pudding Pond is parallel to the North South Road, coming from Hemlock Lane. There is a steep slope near Jesse Lyman’s home, and with the railroad tracks there, space is limited. The plan is to turn to the East and cross the narrow part of the outlet to minimize wetlands impact and the cost of bridges. Dave Weathers reported that from his conversation with Jesse Lyman yesterday, the concern is to protect the properties in that area, and anything close to the North South Road. He would like to know if a vegetative screen will be put in between the path and the road. Rob Adair explained that they are not that far into the plan, but they are going down the slope to avoid being right near the North South Road. They are trying to avoid retaining walls. That will be a part of the discussion for tomorrow’s meeting. Jesse Lyman explained that, from his house and his neighbors’ houses, there are openings where they see the wildlife in the pond, and his concern is where the bridge will be positioned. He suggested rotating about 80 degrees more toward the woods, if it is an option. He also stated that anyone coming in on Thompson Road will have to cross three times. He said he is not in favor of the pavement and there are other people that expressed their opinion of not having the pavement on the path. He also feels that a lot of people are not aware of the plan to pave the path. He feels the hike around the pond will not be the same as in the past. Rob Adair pointed out that there have been quite a few articles in the paper discussing the path, and it has gone before the Board of Selectmen a few times. Jesse Lyman said he focused on the articles pertaining to the Walmart area to Cranmore, but he did

not see a lot on Pudding Pond. Rob Adair commented that this will be a great opportunity for people in the area to use the path more often in the future. Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler commented that, at first he had the same reaction about putting the pavement in, but then he realized the benefits it would bring for everyone. However, he thinks there may be other alternatives that can be considered. Rob Adair said that the greatest benefit would be access for the first responders in case of an emergency. Jesse Lyman mentioned that he also has concerns about the longevity of the path and what the future maintenance costs would be. Rob explained that the construction costs will be about 2 million dollars and the fund raising goal is 2.3 million, so the \$300,000 will go into an endowment for the future maintenance of the path. The purpose of putting in the narrow bridge in the driest spot is to minimize the impact on the wetlands. Jesse Lyman thanked the Conway Conservation Commission for allowing him to state his concerns, and he commended the Conservation Commission for all the work they do.

### 3. Reports and Other Business:

- a. Rob Adair did not hear from Don Johnson, so there is no report.
- b. Trail Planning/Stewardship: Dave Weathers said he spoke to Karla Allen yesterday and she is very interested in remaining as a member of the Commission as an alternate. Rob Adair stated that she should submit her intentions to Tom Holmes, Town Manager.

Rob Adair reported that he, Larry Huemmler, Karla Allen and Dan Lucy focused on the Marshall Conservation Area last year, as a Committee, and he suggested that they meet before the next meeting. The plan is to walk the area, and review the plans for this year.

Rob Adair asked Nat Lucy if he is interested in overseeing the Whitaker Woods Committee. Nat Lucy said yes, and he would like to open a discussion about having members on the committee who are not on the Conservation Committee. He feels there is such a diversity of uses, that it would be beneficial to ask those who often use the property to join the Committee. Dave Weathers pointed out the Conservation Commission's mission is concern for wildlife and preservation, but it would be good to open the Committee to other viewpoints. Rob Adair suggested continuing the discussion at the next meeting after Nat Lucy makes a few contacts.

Rob Adair explained that the Conservation Commission manages the lands, as a Steward. He said the members walk the properties, but not on a scheduled basis. Linda Kearney stated that some towns actually hire a person to do that and they mark the boundaries. Rob Adair said Forester Don Johnson is very good at keeping an eye on boundaries. He suggested continuing this discussion at the next meeting, and thoughts of creating a plan for the management of properties can be on the agenda. He pointed out that the parcels are in the Town Report. Discussion continued about the property in East Conway by the Pine Street School, and the fact that it is hardly used. Rob Adair suggested looking at the trail again this year to see if it needs to be brushed out. East Conway Common Lands is also another area that needs to be looked at. Rob Adair said he would put it on the agenda for May. Linda Kearney reported that the signs by Walker Pond are intact, but they also are hard to read.

- c. Treasurer's Report: Linda Kearney reported the following
  - Conservation Land - \$123,312 (\$9,000 from the timber sale at Whitaker Woods)
  - Current Use - \$104,000
  - Conservation PDIP – L-CHIP - \$20,000
  - Hubbard Davis Public Forest - \$14,000

L-CHIP is used for land acquisitions, but it has restrictions. Linda Kearny reported that Lilli Gilligan, Finance Director, looked into other higher interest bearing accounts, and found that anything that pays more interest will tie up the money. Dave Weathers reported that before the Marshall Conservation Area was purchased, the Conservation Commission did not purchase any other land for a long time. He suggested using mutual funds because if the money is used there is no penalty. Nat Lucy also suggested putting the funds into a higher interest account. Dave Weathers stated that the Land Acquisition Account has more accessibility; he doesn't understand why there are two separate accounts for the funds.

- d. Selectmen's Report: Dave Weathers reported that an application was submitted by the State of NH to the State DES for the outlet to Conway Lake/302 Bridge. He said that the construction would probably begin in 2020.

Saco River Camp Ground submitted an application to redo their beach for better access to the water; they plan to cut down the grade and make it less erosive. They also plan to put in a cement walkway. Nat Lucy suggested the Conservation Commission review the plan. HEB designed the plan.

The Town of Conway submitted an application to replace the culvert on Thompson Road. The corrugated pipe will be replaced with a concrete box. HEB designed the plan.

Dave Weathers reported that the work on the bridge in Conway is on schedule. They should be done by May.

- e. Round Table: Rob Adair reported that two Alternate members are open. Peter Minich has submitted his name to join the CCC. He is retired and knows the area. Karla Allen is also interested in staying on as an Alternate. Dave Weathers reported that the Board of Selectmen did approve Nat Lucy and Pat Ferland as members of the CCC; they were sworn in.

Linda Kearny reported that she and Rob Adair attended a talk at the Bartlett Conservation Commission concerning invasive species of plants in NH. Linda displayed the chart that was handed out at the meeting. Some of the plants are actually used as decorative plants. Douglas Cygan was the speaker from the NH Dept. of Agriculture. .

Rob Adair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 P.M. Linda Kearney made the motion; seconded by Dave Weathers. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Theresa Ann Gallagher*

Recording Secretary