

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2023**

The May monthly meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at **6:30 PM** at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH.

Present: Chairman, Nat Lucy; Vice Chairman, Dan Lucy; Treasurer, Linda Kearney; Rob Adair; David Weathers, Selectmen's Representative; Peter Minnich; Larry Huemmler; Corbett Tulip; and Recording Secretary, Jacqueline White.

Absent:

Also Attending: Tim Nolin, Forest Land Improvement.

1. Approval of the Minutes for April 12, 2023:

Ms. Linda Kearney made a motion to accept the April 12, 2023 minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Peter Minnich. Motion passed (4-0) with Mr. David Weathers, Mr. Rob Adair, and Mr. Larry Huemmler abstaining.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports & Other Business:

A. Selectmen's Report – Crown Ridge Road:

Mr. Nat Lucy thanked Mr. David Weathers for volunteering to be the Selectmen's Representative for the Conservation Commission. Mr. David Weathers said there was a group of people interested in the land off of Crown Ridge Road that the Commission wanted to gift to the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (USVLT). Mr. Weathers said Town Staff discovered this land cannot be sold or auctioned, the land must remain conservation land due to deed restrictions. Mr. Weathers said the transfer of land to the USVLT will be happening.

B. Hurricane Zone Trail Work:

Mr. Nat Lucy said himself, Mr. Rob Adair, Mr. Corbett Tulip and Mr. Mike LeBlanc of Ride NoCo got together at the water tower on the Hurricane Zone trails. Mr. Lucy stated they walked the trails to look at the proposed work. Mr. Corbett Tulip said Ride NoCo is applying for a State RTP Grant for the work on the Red Tail Trail. Mr. Tulip said the majority of the Red Tail Trail is on Town owned land. Mr. Tulip said he will be doing an in-depth maintenance over haul to the Red Tail Trail; staying in the same corridor except in a few short sections, improving sustainability, and fixing erosion issues. Mr. Tulip said the Hurricane Trail Network took a big hit from the recent heavy rain event. Mr. Tulip stated one big area of

concern is the log landing close to Hurricane Mountain Road. This area will be getting a bigger over-haul and removing the jumps and making it more visually appealing. Mr. Tulip said the work will involve hand work and a mini excavator in some spots, and the goal is to improve erosion issues and improve corners to make the trail ride better and keep water from getting trapped on the trail.

Mr. Rob Adair said he is fully in support of the work on the Red Tail Trail.

Mr. David Weathers asked about water getting in to the trail and if its possible to kick it out. Mr. Corbett Tulip said the way the trail switches back and forth is part of the challenge with getting the water out of the trail.

Mr. Rob Adair made a motion to approve the Red Tail Trail work as discussed; seconded by Mr. Nat Lucy. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Nat Lucy asked Mr. Corbett Tulip what is the next priority. Mr. Tulip said the next priority is developing an uphill corridor and connecting Kettle Ridge to the Cranmore Connector. Mr. Lucy said the connector to Kettle Ridge was given a conditional approval with a required walk through, which has been completed. Mr. Tulip said this is a very similar project to the work being done on Red Tail.

Mr. Rob Adair made a motion to approve the Connector to Kettle Ridge as discussed; seconded by Mr. Larry Huemmler. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Corbett Tulip said this new section will be built for two-way traffic. Mr. Tulip said this would create another important link in the network allowing riders to traverse from Hurricane and Red Tail to Kettle Ridge in either direction. Mr. Rob Adair said he is in favor of this connector.

Mr. Rob Adair made a motion to approve the Red Tail to Kettle Ridge link as discussed; seconded by Ms. Linda Kearney. Motion passed (6-0-1) with Mr. David Weathers abstaining.

C. Thompson Road – Pudding Pond Parking:

Mr. Nat Lucy said he met with Mr. Tim Nolin, Forest Land Improvement and Mr. Andrew Smith, Public Works Director on site. Mr. Lucy said several different ideas were discussed, the first being expanding parking under the power lines. Mr. Lucy said another idea was to expand the existing parking area down the road about one hundred (100) feet to the next telephone pole. Mr. Lucy said they discussed going thirty (30) feet in from edge of pavement for safety.

Mr. Nat Lucy said the bigger issue is having a parking lot in a residential neighborhood. Those building the Rec Path will be promoting parking at either end of the Rec Path: on Hemlock Lane or Cranmore Mountain. Mr. Lucy said since the COVID, there was so much activity at the entrance to Pudding Pond with parking that the Town had to post the road for no parking. Mr. Rob Adair said the parking has been inadequate there for a long time.

Mr. Larry Huemmler asked how many parking spots are we adding. Mr. Nat Lucy answered nine (9) or ten (10) parking spots.

Mr. Rob Adair made a motion to approve a 30'x100' parking lot expansion at Pudding Pond; seconded by Mr. Larry Huemmler. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

D. Forest Land Improvement – Tim Nolin:

Mr. Tim Nolin said the two landings at Marshall have been brush sawed and he is hoping to mow some of the sweet ferns in the next couple weeks.

Mr. David Weathers asked Mr. Tim Nolin what he was doing for TSI. Mr. Nolin answered knocking down hard woods around the pines that came in. Mr. Nolin said cutting down the pines that folded over in the winter due to the heavy snow, and unfortunately, they are staying folded over.

E. Marshall Parking Expansion:

Mr. Rob Adair said we could maybe add six (6) parking spots. Mr. Nat Lucy asked if that would leave any trees between the road and the parking area. Mr. Adair answered not any big trees will be left cut.

Mr. Tim Nolin said we will get fill from the Town's road projects.

Mr. David Weathers stated this should go before the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. David Weathers said there is a livestock irrigation pond just north of this area. Mr. Tim Nolin said he will not be going near any wetlands.

Mr. David Weathers asked for approximate dimensions on the parking expansion at Marshall. Mr. Tim Nolin said fifteen (15) feet by fifteen (15) feet on the north side and fifteen (15) feet by sixty (60) feet on the south side.

Mr. Nat Lucy said as we expand these parking areas at what point are we responsible for providing toilets. Mr. Lucy said we should take the lead on providing toilets at the Conservation Lands. Mr. Rob Adair said two years ago we budgeted for Porta-Johns, but last year the local supplier was no longer doing that part of their business. Mr. David Weathers said the local supplier of Porta-Johns stopped because of people trashing and vandalizing the Porta-Johns.

Mr. Nat Lucy asked if any member would be willing to volunteer to find Porta-Johns for two locations on Conservation Lands through the summer. Mr. Corbett Tulip volunteered to get estimates on Porta-Johns.

F. Nomination of Alternates:

Mr. Nat Lucy said he has one person that is very interested in becoming an Alternate and they are preparing a letter of interest to present to the Commission.

G. Member Roundtable:

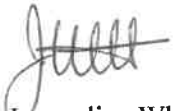
Mr. Nat Lucy said he will be meeting with Mr. Cort Hanson and Mr. Peter Donohoe from the Ski Touring Association this week to discuss Whitaker Woods this winter and the comments the Commission received at the April meeting from the public.

Mr. Tim Nolin brought up the encroachment of the North Face Condominiums on Town owned land at the Pudding Pond entrance. Mr. Rob Adair stated the Commission reported it to the former Town Manager, Tom Holmes and is unsure of what the current status of that is.

Next Meeting: The next CCC meeting will be on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH.

Adjourn: Ms. Linda Kearney made a motion to adjourn at 7:41 P.M.; seconded by Mr. David Weathers. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Jacqueline White
Recording Secretary