

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 8, 2023**

The November 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; Selectmen's Representative, David Weathers; Rob Adair via phone; Peter Minnich; Paul Getchell; and Recording Secretary, Jacqueline White.

Absent: Corbett Tulip; Larry Huemmler.

Also Attending: Tim Nolin, Forest Land Improvement.

**1. Approval of the Minutes for October 11, 2023:**

**Ms. Linda Kearney made a motion to accept the October 11, 2023 minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Peter Minnich. Motion passed with David Weathers abstaining (4-0-1).**

**2. Public Comment: None.**

**3. Reports & Other Business:**

**A. Selectmen's Report:**

Mr. David Weathers said there is a discussion coming up on proposed work at the North Conway Water Precinct treatment plant on how to stabilize the banking along the river. Mr. Weathers said the State is trying to find alternatives to rip rap because of the cost factor. Mr. Weathers stated we should pay close attention to what plan they come up with.

Mr. David Weathers stated the draw down for Conway Lake went well, but it did cause a few problems with hay washing out of fields due to the volume of water rushing out of the dam. Mr. Weathers said the boat ramp reconstruction project is progressing well. Mr. Nat Lucy asked if they are starting to bring the lake level back up. Mr. Weathers said they have closed the gates, but it is not filling back up as fast as they hoped it would.

**B. Walker Pond Trail Discussion:**

Mr. Paul Getchell said the priority is to know where the property lines are for this conservation land. Mr. Getchell stated they took a long walk around the large loop, which crosses three private abutting lots. Mr.

Getchell said they took a walk down into the wetlands by the water's edge, which stays on high ground briefly, but then drops down into a wetland, which is not sustainable because of high water and the bridge washing out. The trails are easily walked, nothing obstructing the trails, but they are not marked well. Mr. Getchell stated if someone were to park in the turn off on Mill Street, there is a sign with a map that would get them started with directions, but the walker could end up on private property. Mr. Getchell said what trails we do have need to be marked and maintained. Mr. Getchell shared they continued their walk to the so-called mill lot, which the Town owns right at the Dam, where the Conservations signs are for the Walker Pond Trails, and they are in rough shape. Mr. Getchell said he believes we could take the five existing signs and reduce them into two signs.

Mr. Paul Getchell shared a map of the trail system. There was a brief discussion on the Walker Pond Loop trail and the three private abutting lots that the trail crosses on to.

Mr. Paul Getchell said he is going to look into grants for updating the signs. Mr. Getchell stated the sign that is at the Mill Street parking at the railroad grade trail head has an inaccurate map on it that will have to be changed. Mr. Tim Nolin said he did some research at the Registry to find the boundaries of this land.

Mr. Nat Lucy stated there is really two projects here and perhaps the walking trail is the most important thing to focus on if we can establish the property lines. Mr. Lucy said the signage would be a separate project. Mr. Tim Nolin said he did look into the property to see if a timber harvest is possible, but there maybe deed restrictions that could prevent this.

There was further discussion on the Loop trail and getting easements or permission from the three private abutting lots that the trail crosses on to.

#### C. Marshall Trail Work Proposal:

Mr. Nat Lucy said Mr. Corbett Tulip of Tulip Trails LLC sent him a proposal of the trail work for Lucille's Loop totaling \$9,000 and he could do the work next year. Mr. Lucy asked Mr. Rob Adair his thoughts on the proposal. Mr. Rob Adair said the proposal looked good to him and it is a comprehensive upgrade to the existing trail. Mr. Peter Minnich asked if this proposal is to upgrade the existing trail or expand. Mr. Dan Lucy answered this proposal is to upgrade and improve the existing trail, there is a lot of wet sections in the back, and other sections that need to be upgraded for erosion and culverts added. Mr. Nat Lucy said we have requested \$15,000 of trail work in next year's budget. Ms. Linda Kearney said she does not believe we can vote on approving this proposal/work until we have the budget approved.

There was a brief discussion on the importance of projects if the whole proposed budget for trail work does not get approved.

Ms. Linda Kearney asked if a project cost \$9,000 are we supposed to get bids on it. Ms. Jacqueline White said she will look up the Town's Purchasing Policy and send it to the Conservation members. Ms. Kearney asked if it is a conflict of interest for Mr. Corbett Tulip to do the work if he is a member of the Conservation Commission. Mr. David Weathers said we should look into that.

#### D. Whitaker Woods Update:

Mr. Nat Lucy gave the Commission an update on Whitaker Woods. Mr. Lucy said earlier this summer, he and Mr. Peter Donohoe met with a representative from the walker's group to address the concerns and

complaints from last winter's trail system. Mr. Lucy said he feels it will be a better winter this year in the woods with the additions and changes that have been made.

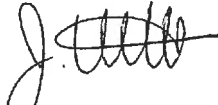
E. Member Roundtable:

There was a brief discussion on the role of the Conservation Commission becoming more recreation/parks oriented because of the increased use of the conservation lands.

Next Meeting: The next CCC meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13, 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 7:34 P.M.; seconded by Mr. David Weathers. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. White', written in a cursive style.

Jacqueline White  
Recording Secretary