

**Commission Members:** Chair Leanne Miner, Vice Chair Bill Knee, Members Cindy Crane, Rich Cooper, Anne Beliveau, John Carson.

**I. WELCOME and CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Miner called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

**II. MINUTES**

- A. Ms. Miner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for October 2, 2023. Ms. Crane seconded, and the vote was 5-0.**

**III. NEW BUSINESS – None**

**IV. CONTINUED BUSINESS**

- A.** Land Conservation – Grants for Map 3, Lot 59 Donation/Easement, Spruce Swamp/Oak Ridge Town Forest Easements (4-66, 4-66-1 (Brown along RR), 4-18, 4-17, 2-151 (parcels between Louise Lane and RR) – A grant was awarded in the amount of \$19,649 from the State of NH Land Protection Transaction Grant Program. Ms. Miner signed the grant agreement on behalf of the Conservation Commission. A public hearing will be held to accept Ms. Pellerin’s donation, move forward with conservation easements to be assigned to the The Forest Society, and to accept the funds awarded. Ms. Miner will be talking more with SELT and others to find other grant opportunities. She is planning to submit for the Moose Plate grant in 2024. On the subject of easements, the group discussed locating boundaries for the Oak Ridge and other forest areas. Ms. Miner will reach out to the Forest Society to see if they have GPS coordinates or other information that will make this exercise more efficient.
- B.** Oak Ridge North Timber Harvest - Ms. Miner provided an update on pre-mobilization efforts including wetland permitting and harvest plans. She is still waiting for a Forest Management Plan from Moreno Forestry Consultants and permitting for submittal to the NHDES Wetlands Bureau for road improvements from Mark West.
- C.** Easement Monitoring – Ms. Miner and Mr. Cooper will get together to plan the first monitoring event proposed to be at the Thunder Road subdivision. She may also reach out to the County Forester to see if its possible to do a review of invasive species at the new subdivision open space off of Scriber Road, Violette Estates.

**V. OTHER DEPARTMENT NEWS**

- A.** Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) Public Hearing – Ms. Miner provided an overview of the current Special Exception application coming before the ZBA for placement of an accessory solar array in a wetland buffer at Map 2, Lot 151-2 (Iron Horse Park) on Iron Horse Drive. As part of the process, the Rockingham County Soil Conservation District will visit the site and prepare a technical report on any recommendations they may have. Members discussed the application and had more questions than comments. The following will be submitted:
- a. Seasonal Maintenance – What will this look like?
  - b. Any ground disturbance?
  - c. Why were they not able to locate the panels outside the buffer?
  - d. Any sensitive flora in the area?
  - e. Refer to restrictions in Watershed areas per the Zoning Ordinance

- f. A site visit was recommended and the Conservation Commission wishes to attend.
- B. Planning Board –**
  - a. Laugh Grow Play Site Plan Review – This public hearing was continued to November 15.
  - b. The Planning Board is reviewing several zoning amendments including a new solar ordinance. Most of the proposed language is online except for the solar ordinance which continues to be discussed and is a topic of discussion on the November 15 Planning Board agenda.

## **VI. REPORT FOR OPEN SPACE**

- A. Report –** Ms. Miner distributed meeting minutes from the Open Space Group’s October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting which lists a number of planned activities including a work party for the interpretive trail and a fall hike including the area of the B-52 bomber remnants.

## **VII. ADMINISTRATION**

- A. Calendar**
  - 1. The next meeting is December 4 at 6:30PM.
- B. Grant Tracking –** Ms. Miner explained that she will need to keep a log of volunteer time spent on the Pellerin parcel and Oak Ridge Easements (note details above). She will ask for any reporting at each meeting.
- C. Correspondence -** None
- D. Expenditure Request –** Mr. Cooper submitted \$620 in expenses. Various voting was done previously for these expenses. Ms. Miner will discuss application to accounts with the Town Administrator, but it was proposed to apply some to the Operational Budget and the Budget Residual (Conservation Fund).
- E. Administration/Budget –** After some discussion on new expenses to maintain trails, members agreed to request approximately \$2000 for supplies in the next budget season (for Fiscal Year 2025).
  - 1. Operating Budget (11/9/23) \$500/\$3721
  - 2. Forest Management (7/30/23) \$23,006
  - 3. Current Use (7/30/23) \$88,247
  - 4. Residual (7/30/23) \$555 (after paying Steckler for Conservation Planning)
  - 5. Arelia Mahoney (7/30/23) \$3,016

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Miner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 PM. Ms. Beliveau seconded the motion, and the vote was 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Leanne Miner, Land Use Administrative Assistant