

Commission Members: Chair Leanne Miner, Vice Chair Bill Knee, Member Cindy Crane

I. WELCOME and CALL TO ORDER

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

II. MINUTES

- A. Mr. Knee made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for August 7, 2023. Ms. Crane seconded, and the vote was 3-0.**

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Conservation Planning – Ms. Miner met with Pete Steckler as a follow up to an introductory meeting with Mr. Knee. She provided an update on Priority Parcel mapping and information from the 2021 Open Space Plan and where they coincide with areas subject to grant fund availability including wildlife corridors and prime farmland areas for discussion. Ms. Miner also met with Lori Sommer, Coastal Watershed Land Conservation Manager working at the Southeast Land Trust of NH. Ms. Sommer is going to work with the Town on land conservation. They discussed areas of interest and easement planning for recently conserved lands that expand Town Forests.
- B.** At 6:55PM, John Roderick, member of the ESRLAC - Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee, dropped in to say hello and introduce himself to members of the Conservation Commission. A number of topics were discussed such as stormwater, nitrogen loading in our rivers, and the importance of Spruce Swamp.

IV. CONTINUED BUSINESS

- A.** Tavern Road Emergency Lane Designation – The Conservation Commission and Open Space Advisory Group members attended a public hearing by the Select Board on this matter on August 31. The Select Board voted favorably to accept a portion of Tavern Road as an Emergency Lane.
- B.** Oak Ridge North Timber Harvest - Next steps were discussed.
- C.** Easement Monitoring – The group will review the easement for Thunder Road.

V. OTHER DEPARTMENT NEWS

- A.** ZBA Public Hearing – No cases are before the ZBA currently.
- B.** Planning Board – No projects were discussed.

VI. REPORT FOR OPEN SPACE

- A.** Report – No report this meeting. The group will be more active in the fall.

VII. ADMINISTRATION

- A.** Calendar

1. The Community Scarecrow Cookout is September 23, 11AM to 1PM. Conservation Commission and Open Space Members are encouraged to attend.
 2. The next meeting is October 2 at 6:30PM.
- B.** Correspondence - None
C. Expenditure Request – None
D. Administration/Budget – The 2024 budget was favorably recommended, in the requested amount of \$5357, by the Select Board and Budget Committee for town vote.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Miner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM. Mr. Knee seconded the motion, and the vote was 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Leanne Miner, Land Use Administrative Assistant