

AUGUST 2021 DRAFT

- 09 August 2021 / 5:30 PM / LANCASTER WELCOME CENTER

Initial Business:

- The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Rachael Stuart.
- Roll Call. Members present: Margaret Hobbs, Troy Merner, Nancy Southworth, Racheal Stuart, Linda Gilmore (Clerk). Absent: Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Kim Votta
- Public attendees, City Manager Ben Gaetjens-Olsen
- Stuart reviewed public meeting procedures.

Approve Minutes from July 12, 2021

- After discussion, Nancy Southworth motioned that the minutes be accepted as presented. Margy Hobbs seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Appointment(s) and Public Hearing(s):

- Sam Mayne and Abby Mayne – Heritage Trail Maintenance. Public attendees Sam Mayne and Abby Mayne presented their volunteer work to date clearing overgrown areas of the Heritage Trail. They asked for support from the LCC. After discussion of needs and options, they agreed to return at the next meeting to present a formal proposal for board consideration.

New Business:

Ongoing/Unfinished Business:

- Review current NHDES matters
- DES Response to Eversource D142 Line Application; Eversource responses to some questions raised at site visit. Discussion of content. The DES REquest for More Information (RFMI) was uploaded to the LCC Google drive folder. Eversource responded to the RFMI just prior to this meeting. Stuart will distribute the Eversource Response to members for discussion at the September meeting, as well as comments from the town of Whitefield. Tabled until September.
- Use of Google Drive for committee
- Members with Gmail accounts have access to the Google Docs folder with pertinent committee documents. Merner requested that his copies be emailed to him.
- LCC Workplan Topics
- Hobbs presented an update on potential ARM Fund projects. Based on her review of grant funding priorities, it was recommended that the LCC continue to explore land conservation. As a possible ARM fund project. Since the purchase of real property or easements may be involved Stuart will schedule a nonpublic session ASAP to discuss potential parcels consistent with ARM Fund requirements. The grant pre-application is due in February 2022 and the LCC will continue to explore other potential projects.

Reading of communications directed to Commission

- A letter of interest for an open Commission position has been submitted by Sam Mayne and uploaded to the Commission folder. Mayne was present and offered his credentials, which include an MS in Soil Conservation, Fish and Wildlife employment, river corridor and river health experience, and grant writing. After discussion, Hobbs motioned to accept his application and forward it to the Select Board for approval. Southworth seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Other Business

- Selectboard Report:
- Treasurer's Report:

- There was no report from the Select Board.
- Monthly Budget-to-Actual. Stuart reviewed the Treasurer's report in Lavoie's absence. Lavoie is still finalizing several Conservation Fund items in conjunction with the Town staff and the auditor. Stuart encouraged members to continue to think about the use of the Education Line item in the LCC operating budget. Stuart submitted a request for reimbursement for \$75 printing costs for copies of the Natural Resource Inventory Brochures presented at today's public presentation. There being no discussion, Hobbs motioned that the expense be approved and the financial report be approved as submitted. Southworth seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Other Business as may be legally brought before the meeting

- Merner announced that he was attending a meeting with the NH Snowmobile Association and the Fish and Game Department next week. He asked for input from committee members on any issues regarding snowmobile trails. Stuart noted that the existing Corridor 5 crosses important wetlands near the D142 Line and that the Commission is interested in ensuring trails do not negatively impact sensitive wetlands or spread invasive species. Merner asked that members email him with any suggestions.
- Rob Christie, a member of the public, noted there has been a change in ownership of the Bartow property, which has a conservation easement held by the Forest Society. Information was offered regarding previous and current volunteer efforts on the Heritage Trail. There was a short discussion of the Japanese Knotweed project. Lavoie will be presenting additional options for committee consideration.

Adjournment

- There being no further business, Stuart called for a motion to adjourn. Merner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Hobbs seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Approved:

Rachael Stuart, Chair

Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Vice Chair