

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeremy Degler
Sarah Eckstein
Angela Ficco
Mercedes O'Donohue
Scott Orzechowski
Jeremy Rhodes
Dale Smith-Kenyon

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Mears

The meeting was called to order by S **Orzechowski** at 6:05 pm.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Regular meeting of 8/11/21

Corrections:

- 3B – addition; Bob Stowell is Tritech Engineer representing client.
- 3B – “T” is J. Rhodes
- 3B – misspelling – S. Orzechowski

J. Degler moves to approve, M. O'Donohue seconds. Motion Carries 6-0-2 (A. Ficco, D. Smith-Kenyon)

Site Walk of 8/24

Corrections:

- A. Ficco made motion to approve, M. O'Donohue seconded.

S. Orzechowski moves to approve, M. O'Donohue seconds. Motion carries 7-0-1 (J. Degler)

2. Public Comment

No public comments received

3. New Business

A. Sustainability Committee Report

Committee voted to partner with Conservation Commission for outreach & education regarding pesticide/herbicide use in city and stormwater management.

Efforts are underway on pollinator garden on Ash Street.

Notes compost dropoff for city residents at DPW facility.

Doug Watson spoke with M. Mears regarding solar ordinance.

J. Sintzer (Clean Energy NH) spoke regarding their efforts toward forming energy commissions; these are typically structured similarly to the Conservation Commission. We could potentially form one through an enabling RSA.

Information on solar energy generation within the city is being sought, both commercial and residential.

B. Getting map coordinates for easement monitoring

Prioritization is in place. Map coordinate generation is currently with SELT and SRPC

C. Unauthorized tree cutting, trail signs and bridge construction at The Oaks 2 Easement

S. Orzechowski is looking to go out to the site to remove materials; DPW will assist during work hours.

Code Enforcement has met with residents.

Potential exists for recreational trails at other locations in the city, particularly at Malley Farm. Liberty Mutual and Timberland are potential sources of labor and funding.

Commission members plan to meet 9/26/21 at 9:00 AM to remove trail components.

D. City invasives controls

S. Orzechowski to provide update.

E. Entomologist walks

S. Orzechowski to provide update.

F. Backyard habitat promotion

S. Orzechowski and S. Eckstein meeting with mayor to amend ordinances to promote. Would go well with mayor's Monarch pledge.

J. Degler has contacted state nursery for kits; cost is approximately \$35 for homeowner plantings. UNH Cooperative extension has information as well.

Mailings could be sent, either separately or as part of water bills or city newsletter, to promote.

S. Eckstein will look into opt-in rules for city newsletter.

G. Any other new business

S. Eckstein was voted in as a full member at the prior city council meeting.

D. Smith-Kenyon moves S. Eckstein be appointed as Commission Treasurer. J. Rhodes seconds. Motion carries 8-0-0

Baby turtles have been noted at Willand Pond (both living and killed by vehicle strikes). M. Mears has a single turtle crossing sign in her office. D. Smith-Kenyon notes there have been deer sightings between 18 and 56 Indigo Hill Rd. J. Rhodes moves to place existing sign and authorize funds for a second sign to be placed at both entrance and exit of Willand Pond. J. Degler seconds. Motion carries 8-0-0

J. Degler raises tree city USA signage; S. Eckstein has raised question with DPW; they have at least one sign. A. Ficco moves to place sign at Dover/Somersworth border on High Street; J. Rhodes seconds. Motion carries 8-0-0.

4. Old Business

A. Easement monitoring

S. Eckstein and D. Smith-Kenyon have done a medical mile (108) site walk. Noted no invasives or dumping, but a number of naturally downed trees. Native plants are present in large numbers. Noted possible maintenance need to Atlantic Digestive detention pond; M. Mears will follow up.

B. MEMBER ITEMS, SUB-COMMITTEE ITEMS, AND REPORTS

S. Orzechowski and S. Eckstein have discussed climate change items, will raise with city council.

Mayor has announced 'Eye on 2030' initiative; looking to mayor for board appointees, charter, and funding.

Preserve Somersworth committee is chaired by S. ORzechowsdki as well. Doug Watson and D. Smith-Kenyon are on this committee as well.

A. Ficco is reaching out to NH Fish & Game for cottontail release.

Wendy Berkley is restarting NH Farm to School post-Covid; this initiative is grant funded.

C. Update on remediation at Steven E. Brown Willand Drive property

M. Mears will address drought-damaged plantings.

D. Any other old business that may come before the Commission

Wetland construction at 56 Indigo Hill Rd; Code Enforcement is contacting landowners.

5. Treasurer's Report

Current balance is \$98,254.42, with a grant rebate expected.

Mayor is expected to include funding sources other than the current land use tax as part of eye on 2030.

A. Ficco moves to adjourn, J. Degler seconds. Approved 8-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary