

Chairman Frank Lombardi called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Members Present: Chairman Frank Lombardi, Vice Chairman Donald LaPlante, Marcia Hammon, Edith Worcester, Marsha Lombardi, Lisa Courcy, David Chase and Secretary Tina Wright.

Members Absent: None

Public Present: Jon Swan and Paul Hayes.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Donald LaPlante to approve the minutes as is from the August 9th, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Edith Worcester. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carries.

New Business:

The Conservation Commission received a letter back from Michelle Winters from the State of NH DOT regarding access to the railbed. Vice Chairman Donald said he will send a clarifying letter with the two maps to explain what we want to do. Then we will find out if they want to come up to meet in person.

Letter to Katie Kopp (WEDC):

Chairman Frank Lombardi reached out to Katie Kopp via email. Katie replied back. (see attached).

The Conservation Commission has decided to attend the October 18th meeting with WEDC. Donald LaPlante, Marsha Lombardi and Edith Worcester have agreed to attend the meeting.

Town Forest:

Frank sent an email to Lise Dodge. There has been no reply from that. Lisa Courcy also composed a letter to send to Jonathan Dodge. The Commission decided to send both letters to Jonathan Dodge.

King Square Project:

Dunkin Donuts has approached the town to purchase the parking lot behind Cumberland Farms. They would be taking the barn down, using some of the wood from the barn with the construction of a new Dunkin Donuts building. It would have a drive thru and turn the lot where the barn is into a parking lot. The Conservation Commission discussed some of their concerns. The biggest concern is the Johns River. How close are they going to be and how will they divert the water? Jon Swan mentioned that could mean a lot of standing vehicles waiting, a lot of emissions. Marcia Hammon agreed and said a lot of traffic. Frank said there are a lot of residents in that area. He said we don't even know yet if this is even an option, it's premature yet, and do not know exactly what the pieces are.

Paul Hayes asked the Conservation Commission what is your role with this, what can you enforce?

Frank said the building would need to be 250 feet from the Johns River and we can just give recommendations. The Conservation cannot deny it, just give feedback and recommendations. NHDES has a Shoreland Protection Act. The new owner would more than likely need a Shoreland Permit. The Conservation Commission discussed the parking lot in detail and how it used to be a gas station there and questioned if the tanks are still in the ground. One Selectmen has said they are not. Edith wondered if Ken Jordan would know, it was his Dad's station. Donald said there is an easy way to determine whether the tanks are still in the ground.

Dalton Conservation Commission:

Jon Swan, the Chairman of the Dalton Conservation Commission joined the meeting. Thanked everyone for allowing him to come and to speak. He said a couple of things he would like to talk to the WCC about. Mr. Swan said he felt it would help everyone in the North Country if we could all work more collaboratively together. The DCC is trying to put a calendar together for 2024. They are interested in having a master gardener speaker series. In January they are hoping to have a speaker from UNH about starting a pollinator garden. They are looking at town property to start one. It's a very interesting topic and he thought maybe Whitefield would be interested in joining. The fee is \$100. Mr. Swan thought maybe the high school would be interested in hosting it in their auditorium.

Donald thought it was a great idea and thought maybe for the second event have someone talk about this plague in the area of the asian jumping worms. Donald said he would love to have someone come up here and talk to us about that. Jon said this is a nice resource for the public and obviously a lot of people have an interest in the environment. Mr. Swan said another idea they have is called BioBlitz, there's an app you can put on your phone. It's called I-Naturalist. You take a picture of a bug, fungus, plant and it will record it. You can identify different species you have in that area. There will be a BioBlitz event October 21st from 9am-12pm at the Forest Lake State Park. Mr. Swan said he would like to invite the WCC to come on September 19th at 6:30pm to the presentation of Dalton's updated NRI.

Mr. Swan said that Casella Waste has submitted a temporary air permit application with NHDES. This is a project that will impact all of us in the North Country. Whitefield you are

ground zero for the traffic. Frank asked Mr. Swan if he could give us a quick update. Mr. Swan said they redrew everything. The latest round in April, they sent a request for more info to Casella. They are disputing their position that their route through Whitefield is enforceable. NH DOT feels that drivers will take the shortest route which would be Littleton. It is the most logical route for drivers. With the price of gas and what google maps will provide for a route. The most direct route is through Littleton. Frank asked do you think this will get Littleton to be more of a player in this? Jon said we really all need to work to speak together as one voice. He said he really doesn't know if they are going to be resubmitting. He said they are actually pivoting to a closed landfill in Hardwick Massachusetts. There is a group there that wants the financial benefit. Mr. Swan said he does think that Dalton is now their plan B, just his opinion. He said he urges the WCC to reach out to the Selectboard and North Country Council and to take a more serious look and approach. Marcia Lombardi asked if the rumor of the traffic circle in Whitefield has to do with Casella. Jon said no, he feels like that would be more difficult for the trucks to go through. Frank asked the CC if everyone is in favor of working with DCC on different projects. Everyone said yes. Frank suggested we could combine a meeting here or there. Frank said that North Country Council had done a 10 year plan for downtown to be more pedestrian friendly. We use them for the CIP Committee with the master plan, but do not know all the details on the sidewalks. Knew they did a study years back but do not know if that was the state. We'll have to look into that. Mr. Swan said the thing that is prompting us to move is that the air permit has been submitted. Should we see a wetlands permit application then we'll kick into gear. We can all work together, bring you on board even though you have no impact. We can cause a pause. Two, forty day pauses. Mr. Swan brought up the article on the front page of the Union Leader about PFAS. The Forest Lake Association did baseline testing of the lake. It had no detectable PFAS. He said in fact, it is one of the cleanest lakes in the State. He said there have been no issues this summer, it is one of the most pristine lakes in the State. Mr. Swan said in April, May and June the DCC started to do testing on private wells around the lake. They are trying to establish baselines for water quality. Mr. Swan said he would like to work with the WCC to test Mirror Lake since part of it is in Dalton. Mr. Swan said they have tested over 30 wells now. There has been NO detection of PFAS. Frank asked if the DCC had received a grant for this testing. Mr. Swan said no. Marcia Hammon mentioned that Mirror Lake did have an algae bloom this summer that closed it down for swimming for awhile. Frank asked if you can test soil for PFAS. Mr. Swan said yes, we have not done that yet. Mr. Swan said the company they use is Granite State Analytical. Mr. Swan said we are trying to be proactive, we live in a beautiful area. It is worth protecting. Mr. Swan thanked everyone for having him and everything thanked him for coming.

Frank said we will look at the bylaws at the next meeting.

Correspondence:

The CC read a letter from NHDES on an accepted Shoreland Permit at West Side Road. Tax Map # 243, Lot #12. Also received notification from NHDES for NE Renwal Power Whitefield, LLC. regarding a Draft Title V Operating Permit.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 4:30 pm.
Donald LaPlante made a motion to adjourn at 5:30, seconded by Lisa Courcy.
All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tina Wright, Secretary

Frank Lombardi, Chairman