

**Town of Haverhill
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

**R. E. Clifford Memorial Building
65 South Court St.
Woodsville, NH 03785**

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 6:00 PM

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Conservation Commission members:

Katelyn Currie-Huggard, Chair
Linda Smith
Marilyn Blaisdell
Joe Mitchell
Fred Garofalo, ex officio

The meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** at 6:03 PM by Chair Currie-Huggard.

Attendance: Linda Smith (Here); Marilyn Blaisdell (Here); and Fred Garofalo, ex officio (Here); Joe Mitchell (Here); Katelyn Currie-Huggard, Chair (Here). A quorum was met.

In-Person Visitors: None.

Online Visitors: Mike Thomas (Newbury Conservation Commission)

CONSENT AGENDA

- Chair Currie-Huggard stated that there are no minutes from January because no meeting was held.

Minutes from the Previous Meeting

MOTION #1: Currie-Huggard made the motion and Garofalo seconded the motion to approve the **December 21, 2021**, meeting minutes as written.

Voice Vote: All in favor, none opposed. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

AGENDA APPROVAL: [Motion and vote not done.]

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Thomas, Chair, Newbury Conservation Commission / Canoe-Kayak Launch

Chair Currie-Huggard introduced Thomas and his discussion of the Woodsville Board Launch. Thomas stated that as a member of the Newbury Conservation Commission for over 20 years and chair for 16 years, he enjoys visiting other Conservation Commission in the area to discuss area topics, such as the emerald ash borer infestation. Thomas addressed and provided a history

of the Woodsville nonmotorized boat launch, which he stated is located in back of the backstop at the Woodsville community field and will be used during the spring (Sunday, May 22, 2022) 19th Annual Paddle the Border event. Thomas noted grant money may be available to improve the Woodsville boat launch for day use, as follows:

- Easier access to the river by improving grade or adding steps.
- Removal of invasive and other plants (Japanese knotweed, poison ivy) at the boat launch.
- Better access when the river is low.
- Parking at the boat launch.
- PR for launch site.

Discussion:

- Garofalo noted that the land is in the Woodsville district. Thomas stated that during the Paddle the Border events, he works with Recreation Director, Sherri Sargent. Thomas and Garofalo complimented and praised Sargent's work for the community.
- Garofalo discussed a Town ordinance that may prevent overnight camping on Town property, which he will research. Thomas noted that the state does not allow camping at the Bedell Bridge State Park. Chair Currie-Huggard noted that motorized boats and camping would be prohibited at the Woodsville boat launch. The members discussed the current nonregulated parking at the boat launch.
- Thomas noted that an action plan would include contacting Ron Rhodes (Connecticut River Conservancy) to examine the site and provide engineering recommendations and, for those interested, to seek grant funds for the project, especially if the Conservation Commissions were to work together to seek funds.
- Chair Currie-Huggard noted that the river access points in Haverhill include the Woodsville launch site and the Bedell Bridge State Park, which are 12 miles apart. The members discussed Hazen Park as another river access point.
- Garofalo discussed the municipal legalities of any projects in the precinct, which includes obtaining permission in writing from the Woodsville Commissioners. Thomas suggested also obtaining permission from the Commissioners to maintain the boat launch. Garofalo strongly recommended that the point of river access in Woodsville be called "river access for canoes and kayaks" and not a boat launch.
- Thomas suggested crating a project outline and presenting it to the Conservancy, the Upper Valley Land Trust, the Woodsville Commissioners, and the Haverhill Select Board. Garofalo noted that the Woodsville Commissioner should be the first point of contact. Discussion continued.
- Thomas suggested meeting again in March to write up a project statement.

Nomination and Vote for CO-CHAIR

Chair Currie-Huggard notified the members of the need for a co-chair and possibly a secretary and treasurer for the Commission.

Nomination:

Co-Chair

Blaisdell nominated Joe Mitchell for Co-Chair of the Conservation Commission. Garofalo seconded the nomination.

Voice Vote: All in favor, none opposed. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

Ammonoosuc River Subcommittee and Connecticut Riverbend Subcommittee of the Local Advisory Committee (LAC; https://www4.des.state.nh.us/blogs/rivers/?page_id=22)

Garofalo reported that Howard Hatch, Select Board member, volunteered for the Connecticut River Subcommittee, which has two more vacancies, and there is one vacancy on the Ammonoosuc River Subcommittee.

- Connecticut River Subcommittee: Meetings are quarterly on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM in Littleton, NH.
- Ammonoosuc River Subcommittee: Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 4:30 PM.

Conservation Commission Annual Report

Chair Currie-Huggard will provide members with copies of the completed Conservation Commission Annual Report, which will be published in the Town's Annual Report.

Conservation Commission Archives and Meeting Minutes

Chair Currie-Huggard researched past minutes and was trying to find paper copies of past minutes. Reading through past minutes since 2019, Chair Currie-Huggard uncovered resources about fundraising opportunities, school liaisons, access to mapping data, and more.

Comments from Commission Members:

- Blaisdell asked about members' personal email addresses being posted on the Town's website. Blaisdell asked that the personal emails be removed.
- Chair Currie-Huggard stated that she submitted the Annual Report to the Upper Valley Land Trust (UFLT) to distribute to other commissions.
- Chair Currie-Huggard announced an upcoming event: "Building Trails with Wildlife in Mind" on Zoom from UFLT.
- Chair Currie-Huggard brought up the topic of a Mission Statement for the Commission.
- Chair Currie-Huggard displayed the Town of Orford maps with natural resource layers that are online. Discussion continued.
- Garofalo announced that the \$500 for the Conservation Commission in the Town's operating budget was approved by the Select Board.
- The Commission members discussed Town Meeting day, and Blaisdell noted Chair Currie-Huggard could introduce herself to the meeting attendees.

NEXT MEETING

