

**Town of Haverhill**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:00 PM**  
**J.R. Morrill Building**  
**2nd Floor Conference Room**  
**2975 Dartmouth College Highway**  
**North Haverhill, NH**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

**Conservation Commission members:**

Katelyn Currie-Huggard  
Joe Mitchell  
Linda O. Smith  
Marilyn Blaisdell  
Carolyn Hofmann  
Theresa Paige, ex officio

**Visitor:** Joanna Bligh, Planning Board Clerk

**HOUSEKEEPING**

Bligh introduced herself as a prospective Conservation Commission Clerk if the Commissioners so voted. Acting pro tempore as the Clerk, Bligh discussed the procedure for an organizational meeting, which included voting for a Chair and Vice Chair, reviewing background information according to RSA 36-A, and discussing a Rules of Procedure document.

Bligh noted that she will call the meeting to order and introduce the first order of business – nominations and voting for the Chair.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 PM by Acting Clerk Bligh.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Katelyn Currie-Huggard; Joe Mitchell; Marilyn Blaisdell, online; Linda Smith; and Theresa Paige.

**Absent:** Carolyn Hofmann

A quorum was met.

**In-Person Visitors:** Lynn Fabrizio, Joanna Bligh

**Online Visitors:** None.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Acting Clerk Bligh asked for nominations for Conservation Commission CHAIR.

**NOMINATION for Chair:** Smith nominated Currie-Huggard as Chair of the Conservation Commission, seconded by Mitchell.

**Vote:** All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. The nomination passed.

Chair Currie-Huggard asked for nominations for Conservation Commission VICE CHAIR.

**NOMINATION for Vice Chair:** Blaisdell nominated Mitchell as Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission, seconded by Chair Currie-Huggard.

**Vote:** All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. The nomination passed.

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Currie-Huggard asked for any additions or deletions to the Agenda.

- Acting Clerk Bligh asked to include on the Agenda, the following: A vote to approve the position of Board Clerk, background information according to RSA 36-A, and the Rules of Procedure document.

**MOTION #1:** Blaisdell made the motion to approve the Agenda as amended, seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell.

**Voice Vote:** All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. The Agenda was approved unanimously.

## **MINUTES FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Chair Currie-Huggard asked for any additions or deletions to the Minutes from **March 19, 2024**, and there were none.

**MOTION #2:** Chair Currie-Huggard made the motion to approve the **March 19, 2024**, meeting minutes as written, seconded by Blaisdell.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Board Clerk / Vote to Approve**

**MOTION #3:** Chair Currie-Huggard made the motion to approve Joanna Bligh as Clerk of the Conservation Commission, seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell.

**Voice Vote:** All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Bligh was approved as Clerk of the Conservation Commission.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Organizational Meeting Documents / RSA 36-A:2 and Rules of Procedure Template**

Chair Currie-Huggard introduced Clerk Bligh to open the discussion of the Organizational Meeting documents.

Clerk Bligh provided the members with the complete Conservation Commission state statute for discussion. (See Section 2 below).

### **Section 36-A:2 - Conservation Commission**

A city or town which accepts the provisions of this chapter may establish a conservation commission, hereinafter called the commission, for the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources of said city or town. Such commission shall conduct research into its local land and water areas and shall seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print, and distribute books, maps, charts, plans, and pamphlets, which in its judgment is deemed necessary for its work. It shall keep an index of all open space and natural, aesthetic, or ecological areas within the city or town, as the case may be, with the plan of obtaining information pertinent to proper utilization of such areas, including lands owned by the state or lands owned by a town or city. It shall keep an index of all marshlands, swamps, and all other wetlands in a like manner, and may recommend to the city council or selectmen or to the department of natural and cultural resources a program for the protection, development, or better utilization of all such areas. It shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall file an annual report which shall be printed in the annual town or municipal report. The commission may appoint such clerks and other employees or subcommittees as it may from time to time require.

- Smith noted that the information in the statute was “wonderful.”
- Chair Currier-Huggard discussed outdated inventory of conservation areas in Haverhill, agricultural fields, marshes, swamps, and wetlands. Chair Currier-Huggard noted that a mission statement could come from this and be added to what is on file.

Clerk Bligh provided the members with the complete Conservation Commission state statute for discussion. (See Section 3 below).

### **Section 36-A:3 - Composition of Commission**

The commission shall consist of not less than 3 nor more than 7 members. In a town [that] has a planning board, one member of the commission may also be on the planning board. In a city which has a planning board, one member of the commission may be on the planning board.

- Clerk Bligh noted that from this statute a member of the Conservation Commission could serve as a liaison on the Planning Board.

### **Rules of Procedure**

Clerk Bligh introduced to the members the option to create a Rules of Procedure document for the Conservation Commission. Clerk Bligh provided a Planning Borad document as a template and suggested that members review it for additional discussion at the next meeting.

### **MEMBER UPDATES**

Chair Currier-Huggard asked for any updates from the members.

- Smith introduced a prospective new member, Lynn Fabrizio. Fabrizio shared her background with the members as an 18-year employee of public utilities commissions in New Hampshire and Vermont.

- Theresa Paige is the new ex officio from the Select Board. Paige noted that she had been assigned to this position, but is willing to participate. Paige volunteers with the snowmobile club to work on landowner and easement permissions.
- Chair Currier-Huggard mentioned the upcoming Paddle the Border event on Sunday, May 19, to start at the Woodsville Playing Fields boat access and to end at Bedell Bridge. The members discussed the working group for this event including the Newbury Conservation Commission (Mike Thomas, Chair), Cohase Chamber of Commerce, and the Haverhill Parks & Recreation Department. Discussion centered on the possibility of preparing a map of the Paddle the Border route. Clerk Bligh suggested contacting the Newbury VT Conservation Commission to query about mapping the river route.
- **Squam Lake Conservation Commission Event / *Conservation & Coffee***  
(<https://www.squamslandtrust.org/events/>)  
The Conservation & Coffee event offers an opportunity for local conservation commissions to share information about ongoing conservation projects and commission challenges and gives members and friends a chance to collaborate with other towns and organizations. The diverse range of activities, projects, and goals of each commission illustrates the diversity of the Squam watershed and the many fascinating ways in which conservation can be expressed and accomplished. Come to share your projects, thoughts, and stories!  
**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** Email [Katie@foreversquam.org](mailto:Katie@foreversquam.org) to register.  
The event is free of charge. Refreshments will be served.  
**When:** Thursday, April 25 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM  
**Where:** Holderness Free Library, 866 US-3, Holderness, NH 03245

## OLD BUSINESS

### **Connecticut River Hydro Dam Educational Event with Dr. Kate Buckman**

The members discussed the event, the advertising needed, and who could attend and, by consensus, decided to postpone the event. Clerk Bligh volunteered to contact the speaker, Dr. Buckman, and to cancel the room reservation at the Clifford Building.

### **NH Association of Conservation Commissions** (<https://www.nhacc.org/>)

Chair Currie-Huggard commented that the due for the NHACC has not been paid by the Town and has made many attempts to get the dues for 2024 paid. Clerk Bligh stated that she will follow up.

### **Conservation Scholarship**

Vice Chair Mitchell noted that the scholarship has been distributed at Woodsville High School for seniors, and Smith stated that the students have to plan to attend a 2- or 4-year college with a conservation major. Blaisdell stated that with only \$100 in scholarship money, perhaps one person could apply numerous times. Chair Currie-Huggard stated that it was the opinion of the Town's attorney that the amount of the scholarship cannot be changed. Vice Chair Mitchell commented that it is unclear if the student needs to be a Woodsville HS graduate or even a

