

Atkinson Conservation Commission Minutes
Wednesday, June 28, 2023, 7:00 PM
Atkinson Town Hall

Approved July 26, 2023

Members Present:

Paul Wainwright, Chair
Bill Steele, Vice Chair
John Fournier, Secretary
Suzie Newman
Monique Chretien
Jeff Nenart
Charlie Pitts, Alternate

Others Present:

Bob Worden, Selectman Liaison

1. Call to Order, and Attendance:

Chair Paul Wainwright called the meeting to order in person at Atkinson Town Hall at 7:00PM on Wednesday, June 28th, 2023. Chair Wainwright took attendance and noted that all members are present except for Member Kukshtel, Alternate Member Pitts will vote in his stead.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes

a. May 24th, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Discussion: Chair Wainwright presented the regular meeting minutes from May 24, 2023 and asked for comments or corrections, there were none.

Member Nenart made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from 05/24/2023, as written. Vice Chair Steele seconded the motion. Vote: 7/0/0

3. 2023 Expenditures Report

Chair Wainwright produced the latest 2023 expenditures report and stated that the only new expenditures were to pay the Recording Clerk, to pay for three printing bills from Hampstead Print & Copy for the Sawyer Trail Maps, brochures for the ADA-compliant trails, and “trails relocated” signage.

4. The “Worden Report” - Bob

Selectman Liaison Bob Worden stated that the Police Station project is moving forward. Mr. Worden continued by urging residents to be advocates for this project and to take a tour of the existing Station to fully grasp the importance of building a new facility. Mr. Worden stated that the Town is installing a new water line as part of the PFAS remediation effort. Mr. Worden stated that the pickle ball courts are currently being resurfaced and installed for use this season. Mr. Worden stated that the Town is currently working through a new ambulance contract which could potentially incur unexpected costs for the Town if all surrounding towns don't participate in the multi-town contract. Mr. Worden continued that the age of Town residents and the EMT nationwide staffing-shortage both play large roles in this situation.

5. Accessible Trail on the Slade Town Forest: Project Status, and Next Steps – John

Member Fournier stated that the federal grant application was certainly an intense process but he is pleased to announce that it was submitted before the deadline. Member Fournier stated that although it was the lion's share of the money allocated to New Hampshire, he applied for the full amount of \$80,000. The Commission discussed incorporating the improved parking lot into the project and the fact that Blanding's Turtles being native to this area may have an impact on the outcome of the grant application.

Member Fournier stated that the project total costs will amount to \$83,264, with an 80% match of \$66,600 from the grant. Member Fournier continued that about \$16,500 of \$25,000 has been raised for Phase 1 of the project. Member Fournier stated that the grant awards will be announced in September and paid out the following June. Member Fournier continued that this is a reimbursement grant, so costs will be reimbursed as the project moves forward. Member Fournier stated that this is why fundraising is important to have the cash on hand for up-front costs. Member Fournier continued that he is still looking into other grant opportunities.

6. Marshall Trails Update – Approval of Proposed Trail Locations and Work Plans to Implement Them – Charlie and Chris

Alternate Charlie Pitts passed around some maps of the Marshall Town Forest trails – see attached. The Commission discussed the merits of removing some of the trails along the interior where the trails are too close together; this will allow for wildlife to flourish. Alternate Pitts discussed the need to keep the trails along the exterior clean and keep the shortcuts between them well-marked with a different color. The Commission discussed and generally agreed with Alternate Pitts' suggestions. Chair Wainwright suggested to Alternate Pitts that he remove the existing blazes and use ribbons to temporarily mark the trails.

Member Fournier made a motion to approve the new Marshall Town Forest trail layout, as presented by Charlie Pitts, on the Jim Wilkinson map, with the addition of two shortcuts. Member Newman seconded the motion. Vote: 7/0/0

Chair Wainwright read from the Policies and Guidelines for the Use of Conservation Land in regard to trail locations. Chair Wainwright recommended that we add a new Item #8 that clarifies our responsibility for administering and controlling the Town's conservation lands:

Trail Locations: *While the public is encouraged to help maintain existing, blazed trails on our conservation lands, any construction or maintenance of additional trails is prohibited without the explicit authorization of the Conservation Commission. Furthermore, the Conservation Commission has the authority to relocate or permanently close existing trails to protect the Town's natural resources.*

As with any change in our procedures, we will table this until our next meeting.

7. 50th Celebration Team Report

Chair Wainwright asked the 50th Celebration Team to report on their ideas for next year's events. The Committee, made up of Members Newman, Nenart, Chretien and Member Emeritus Pete McVay, came up with the following ideas for next year's events:

- 50th anniversary celebration fair in September to be held at the Community Center or Woodlock Park, both of which have access to trails, the Commission discussed honoring past Commission members for their efforts.
- Holding at least one event each month.
- Holding events at the Kimball Library.
- Include events that are already happening such as the pollinator event
- Creating photo displays at the library that showcase positive changes over the years as a result of the Commission's work.
- Hosting nature walks and hikes.

Member Chretien made a special request to have a beaver program as one of the events. Chair Wainwright suggested reaching out and involving other conservation commissions. Member Fournier stated that he has some American Elm trees to donate, if they can survive implantation. Mr. Worden suggested an American Chestnut tree presentation. Member Chretien stated that she would reach out to her animal rehabber to see if they would be willing to give a presentation. Member Chretien also suggested getting matching shirts for the Commission, even if Members have to pay out of pocket. Chair Wainwright suggested reaching out to Mary Lovell who is the wife of the Chair of the

Hampstead Conservation Commission who may have a contact for shirt printing. Mr. Worden stated that he has some shirt printing contacts as well.

8. Review of Outstanding Non-Public Meeting Minutes

Chair Wainwright stated that since the Deborah Lang and Beckhorn land deals have completed and are public knowledge, the associated non-public minutes can be unsealed. The Commission had a discussion around which previously sealed non-public minutes could be released versus which should remain sealed. A summary of Chair Wainwright's recommendations is attached to these minutes.

Vice Chair Steele made a motion to unseal the non-public minutes from 06/01/2015, 07/06/2015, 02/03/2020, 03/02/2020, 04/29/2021, 08/25/2021, 09/22/2021, 10/27/2021, 02/23/2022, 04/27/2022, and 05/25/2022 associated with the Deborah Lang and Beckhorn Lands. Member Fournier seconded the motion. Vote: 7/0/0

9. Short Reports & Discussions

a. NHACC Board of Directors Report - Paul

Chair Wainwright stated that there has been a slow start to the photography contest and as a result, he will step up the advertising and marketing campaign to drum up some more interest. Chair Wainwright reminded the Commission that the deadline for submissions is September 8th so there is still time to participate.

Chair Wainwright also stated that he has also been asked to run for Vice President of the NHACC Board of Directors starting in November.

b. Map 14 Lot 37 (Maple Avenue Project) Update

Chair Wainwright stated that the landowner has changed his plans, has chosen a smaller house footprint and as a result is no longer pursuing any variance approvals.

c. Land Acquisition Status: The Lang Parcel on Knightland Road

Chair Wainwright stated that all approvals have been obtained for this land acquisition and they are just waiting for the attorneys to finish up the closing paperwork. Chair Wainwright continued that some money would also likely be going back into the town's Conservation Fund.

- d. Rescheduled: Tree and Plant Identification Workshop – Greg Jordan, Chadwick Town Forest (Woodlock Trails), Rain Date: Saturday, July 1, 9:00AM

- e. Turtle News? – Monique

Member Chretien stated that the last turtle sign was installed with a special thank you to Selectman Bill Baldwin. Member Chretien continued that the signs are already proving useful around Town. Member Chretien suggested sending a thank you to the Director of Public Works, Matt Sullivan, for going above and beyond to install each of these signs.

- f. Troop 9 News? – Bill

Vice Chair Steele stated that Troop 9 is currently on hiatus. Vice Chair Steele stated that he attended the walk in the woods with Charlie Moreno which was well-attended by residents and non-residents alike. Vice Chair Steele continued that fun was had by all.

- g. Trail Maps: Current Inventory and Re-Printing Needs – Hannah

Chair Wainwright stated that maps were just re-printed and the inventory is good for now.

- h. Other Business

Mr. Worden stated that his son Brooks is a mycologist and would be willing to lead a mushroom foraging trip in August to help educate residents on what can be eaten and what cannot.

10. Next Meetings: July 26 & August 23, 2023

11. Hold the Date: NH ACC Annual Conference will be Saturday, November 4, 2023

12. Adjournment

Member Chretien made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Fournier seconded the motion. Vote: 7/0/0

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary Gilberti, Recording Clerk

Attachments:

- Treasurer's report
- Marshall trail relocation map
- Summary of sealed minutes

| Town of Atkinson Conservation Commission 2023 Expenditure Tracking | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|-----|------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Account Number | Description | TM Approved 2023 Budget | What | | Amount | Date Prepared | Date Submitted | Amount Submitted | YTD Total | YTD Unspent | |
| 40.46111.110.00 | RECORDING CLERK | \$ 1,200.00 | Rounding | Hrs | | | | \$ - | | | |
| | | | Minutes - May 24, 2023 | 5.5 | \$118.25 | 6/16/2023 | 6/16/2023 | \$118.25 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - April 26, 2923 | 4 | \$86.00 | 5/11/2023 | 5/11/2023 | \$86.00 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - March 29, 2023 | 4 | \$86.00 | 4/10/2023 | 4/10/2023 | \$86.00 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - March 9, 2023 (Public Hearing) | 2.0 | \$38.00 | 3/27/2023 | 3/27/2023 | \$38.00 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - February 22, 2023 | 4.0 | \$76.00 | 3/23/2023 | 3/23/2023 | \$76.00 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - January 26, 2023 | 5.0 | \$95.00 | 2/20/2023 | 2/20/2023 | \$95.00 | \$ 499.25 | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | 00/00/2020 | | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 700.75 |
| | | | 2023 Rate: 21.50 | | | | | | | | |
| 40.46111.220.00 | FICA .062 | \$ 75.00 | Rounding | | | | | \$ - | | | |
| | | | Minutes - May 24, 2023 | | \$7.33 | 6/16/2023 | 6/16/2023 | \$7.33 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - April 26, 2923 | | \$5.33 | 5/11/2023 | 5/11/2023 | \$5.33 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - March 29, 2023 | | \$5.33 | 4/10/2023 | 4/10/2023 | \$5.33 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - March 9, 2023 (Public Hearing) | | \$2.36 | 3/27/2023 | 3/27/2023 | \$2.36 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - February 22, 2023 | | \$4.71 | 3/23/2023 | 3/23/2023 | \$4.71 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - January 26, 2023 | | \$5.89 | 2/20/2023 | 2/20/2023 | \$5.89 | \$ 30.95 | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | 12/17/2019 | | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 44.05 |
| | | | Rate: 0.062 | | | | | | | | |
| 40.46111.225.00 | Medicare .0145 | \$ 20.00 | Rounding | | | | | \$ - | | | |
| | | | Minutes - May 24, 2023 | | \$1.71 | 6/16/2023 | 6/16/2023 | \$1.71 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - April 26, 2923 | | \$1.25 | 5/11/2023 | 5/11/2023 | \$1.25 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - March 29, 2023 | | \$1.25 | 4/10/2023 | 4/10/2023 | \$1.25 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - March 9, 2023 (Public Hearing) | | \$0.55 | 3/27/2023 | 3/27/2023 | \$0.55 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - February 22, 2023 | | \$1.10 | 3/23/2023 | 3/23/2023 | \$1.10 | | | |
| | | | Minutes - January 26, 2023 | | \$1.38 | 2/20/2023 | 2/20/2023 | \$1.38 | \$ 7.24 | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | 12/17/2019 | | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 12.76 |
| | | | Rate: 0.0145 | | | | | | | | |
| 40.46111.390.00 | OTHER PROF SERVICES | \$ 2,548.00 | Northeast Conservation Services - Lang Mgmt Plan | | \$1,500.00 | 5/1/2023 | 5/1/2023 | \$1,500.00 | \$ 1,500.00 | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - added | | | | 12/16/2019 | | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - added | | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,048.00 |
| 40.46111.550.00 | PRINTING AND BINDING | \$ 1,000.00 | Hampstead Print & Copy - Brochures & Posters | | \$121.14 | 6/12/2023 | 6/12/2023 | \$121.14 | | | |
| | | | Hampstead Print & Copy - Trail maps - Sawyer | | \$145.29 | 5/31/2023 | 5/31/2023 | \$145.29 | | | |
| | | | Hampstead Print & Copy - Brochures | | \$74.51 | 5/19/2023 | 5/19/2023 | \$74.51 | | | |
| | | | Hampstead Print & Copy - Trail maps | | \$159.84 | 5/19/2023 | 5/19/2023 | \$159.84 | \$ 500.78 | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - Added | | | | 12/17/2019 | | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - added | | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 499.22 |
| 40.46111.560.00 | DUES/SUBS/MEMBERSHIPS | \$ 500.00 | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | | 12/16/2019 | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 500.00 |
| 40.46111.620.00 | OFFICE SUPPLIES | \$ 1.00 | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | | 12/16/2019 | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - added | | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1.00 |
| 40.46111.625.00 | POSTAGE | \$ 1.00 | Budget Adjustment - Added | | | | | 12/17/2019 | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - added | | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1.00 |
| 40.46111.650.00 | CARE OF GROUNDS | \$ 2,500.00 | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | | 12/15/2019 | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,500.00 |
| 40.46111.740.00 | NEW EQUIPMENT | \$ 300.00 | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | | 12/15/2019 | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 300.00 |
| 40.46111.820.00 | MILEAGE | \$ 39.00 | 2022 rate per mile: 0.625 | | | | | | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | 12/15/2019 | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 39.00 |
| 40.46111.840.00 | SPECIAL PROGRAMS | \$ 1,000.00 | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | | 12/15/2019 | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - removed | | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,000.00 |
| 40.46111.850.00 | EDUCATION & CONFERENCES | \$ 250.00 | NHACC - 3 Conservation Handbooks | | \$60.00 | 4/11/2023 | 4/11/2023 | \$60.00 | \$ 60.00 | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - Added | | | | 12/17/2019 | | \$ - | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment - added | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 190.00 | |
| 40.46111.875.00 | SIGNS | \$ 500.00 | HP&C - "Trail Relocated" signs | | \$270.00 | 6/23/2023 | 6/23/2023 | \$270.00 | | | |
| | | | Reimburse Monique for sign bolts | | \$8.00 | 5/3/2023 | 5/3/2023 | \$8.00 | \$ 278.00 | | |
| | | | Budget Adjustment | | | | 12/17/2019 | | \$ - | | |
| TOTALS | | \$ 9,934.00 | | | | | | \$ 2,876.22 | \$ 7,057.78 | | |

-71.200

-71.199

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-71.197

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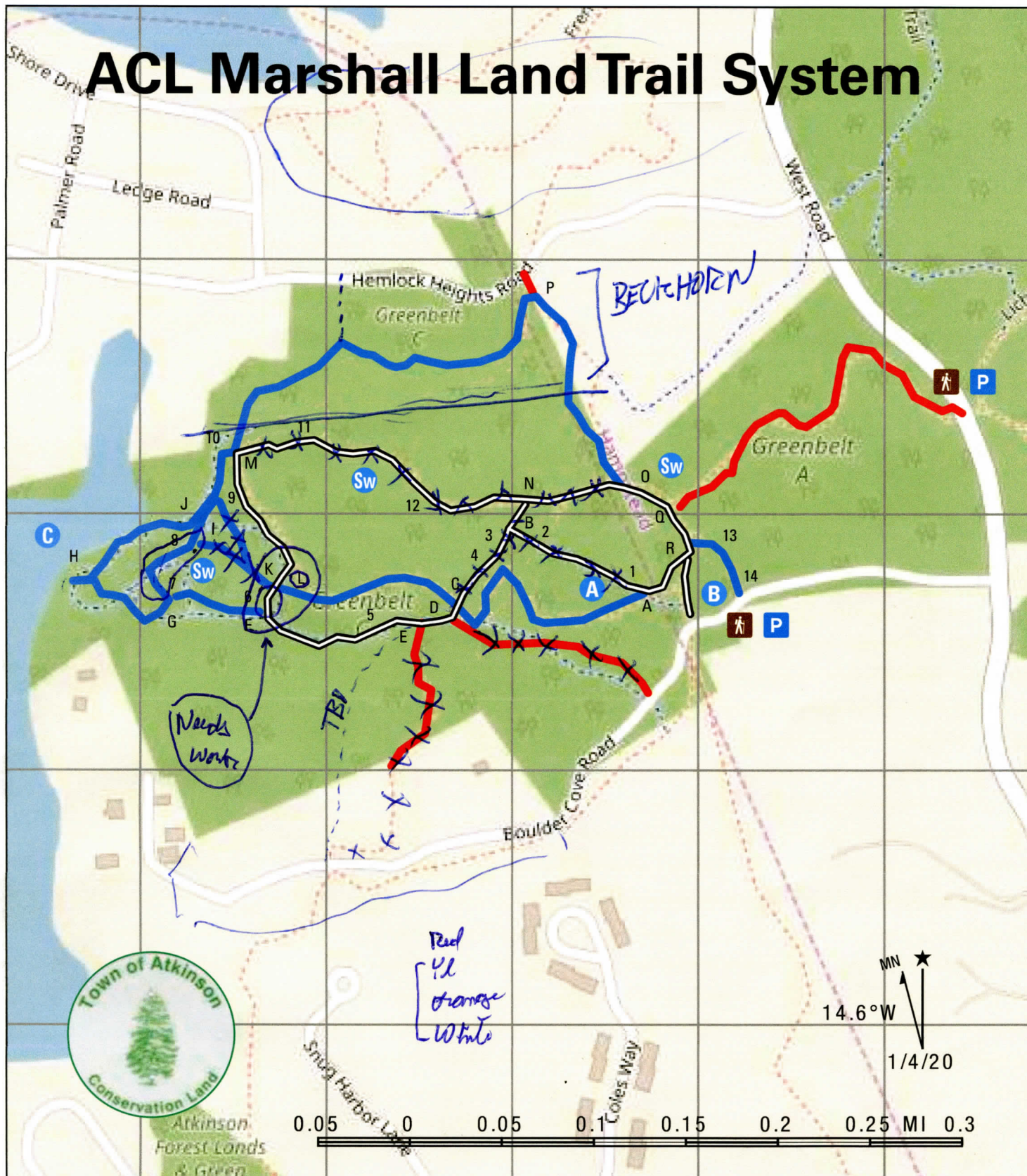
ACL Marshall Land Trail System

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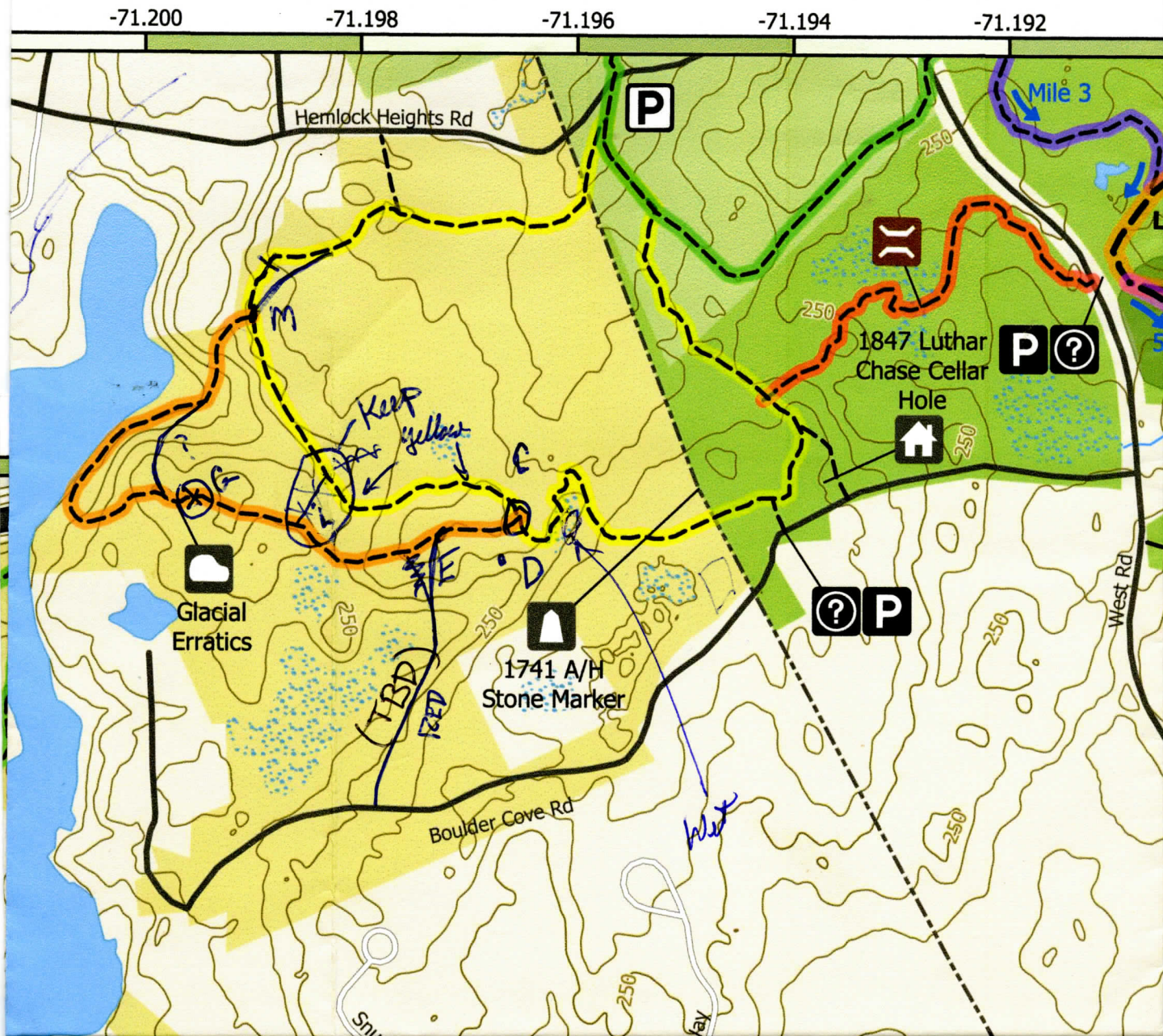
LEGEND

- P Parking
- ⤴ Trail Head
- Conservation Land

- White Blazed Trails
- Blue Blazed Trails
- Red Blazed Trail Outlets
- A - R Trail Intersections
- 1 - 14 Nature Trail Stations

- A 1741 A/H Marker
- B Chase Cellar
- C Boulder Cove
- Sw Stone Walls

My notes from the various walks I've been on



| Minutes Name | Seal | Release | Topic | Recommendation |
|--------------|------|---------|--|---|
| 2010-08 | ✓ | | ██████ land purchase | This is still an active project. Recommend not unsealing. |
| 2011-06 | ✓ | | ██████ Land | ██████ land purchase still possible. |
| 2011-09 | ✓ | | ██████ land, | ██████ land purchase still possible. |
| 2012-07-02 | ✓ | | ██████, | ██████r land purchase still possible. |
| 2012-10 | ✓ | | ██████ Land, █████ contractor | ██████ land purchase still possible. |
| 2012-12 | ✓ | | ██████ meeting | ██████ land purchase still possible. |
| 2015_06_01 | | ✓ | Deborah Lang land | Still pending |
| 2015_07_06 | | ✓ | Deborah Lang Land | Pending |
| 2020_02_03 | | ✓ | Deborah Lang Land | Pending |
| 2020_03_02 | | ✓ | Deborah Lang Land | Pending |
| 2020_05_10 | ✓ | | ██████ Land | ██████ land purchase still possible. |
| 2020_05_27 | ✓ | | ██████ land | still pending |
| 2021_04_29 | | ✓ | Deborah Lang Land | Pending |
| 2021_08_25 | | ✓ | Beckhorn and Lang land | Lang still pending |
| 2021_09_22 | | ✓ | Beckhorn and Lang land | Lang still pending |
| 2021_10_27 | | ✓ | Beckhorn and Lang land | Lang still pending |
| 2022_02_23 | | ✓ | Deborah Lang land | Pending |
| 2022_04_27 | | ✓ | Deborah Lang land | Pending |
| 2022_05_25 | | ✓ | Deborah Lang land and Page Farm Backland | Lang still pending |
| 2023_01_26 | ✓ | | ██████ land | Possible donation █████ |
| | | | | |