

Atkinson Conservation Commission Minutes
Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 7:00 PM
Atkinson Town Hall

Approved June 29, 2022

Members Present:

Paul Wainwright, Chair
John Fournier, Secretary
Hannah Fried, Alternate
Pete McVay
Scott Kukshel
Jeff Nenart (arrived later)

Others Present:

Atkinson Water Resource Committee Chair, Mike Trasatti
Atkinson Water Resource Committee Vice Chair, Joe Jordan
Atkinson Water Resource Committee Member, Sam Butler
Selectman Liaison, Bob Worden (arrived later)

1. Call to Order, and Attendance:

Chair Paul Wainwright called the meeting to order in person at Atkinson Town Hall at 7:02PM on Wednesday, May 25th, 2022. Chair Wainwright took attendance and all members are present with the exception of Member Newman and Vice Chair Steele. Therefore, Chair Wainwright appointed Alternate Fried to be voting tonight.

2. Treasurer's Report

Chair Wainwright produced the latest treasurer's report and noted that the expenses from last two months included the recording clerk's fees, Tim Lavelle's surveying fees on the Stickney Town Forest, reimbursing Member Newman for the Pollinator Pathway event costs, and the tuition for Barry Conservation Camp for Boy Scout Jake Martineau. A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes.

3. Atkinson Water Resource Committee Discussion: Introduction & Goals

Chair Wainwright started this discussion by providing the Commission's Mission Statement to the Atkinson Water Resource Committee (AWRC) members. A copy of the mission statement is attached to these minutes. Chair Wainwright read the items listed on the Mission Statement.

Chair Wainwright stated that, although there is no reference in the Mission Statement about clean water, clean water is a welcome byproduct of the work the Commission does on a routine basis.

AWRC Chair Mike Trasatti read the AWRC's Mission Statement as follows:

- The Atkinson Water Resource Committee was formed by the Board of Selectmen to serve as an advisory and educational resource to the Town of Atkinson and its residents on issues concerning environmental sustainability with a focus on water access, quality, conservation, economics, education, and regulation. The Committee will also serve as a primary advisor to the Select Board on issues pertaining to water resources.

Mr. Trasatti read the goals of the AWRC as follows:

- Monitor the NH DES one stop site of registered water usage
- Bring to the Board all water-related issues that affect the Town and neighboring towns
- Track and report relevant water issues at the State level, specifically legislative initiatives, and DES & PUC actions that may affect the Town
- Apply for grants that will enhance future water resources within the community

Mr. Trasatti stated that the AWRC has a concentration of technical experts with different backgrounds related to water. Mr. Trasatti stated that the AWRC has ambitions of conducting educational outreach by bringing in specialists to discuss topics for residents and to encourage conservation.

Chair Wainwright asked what involvement the AWRC has with the MS-4 permit compliance process. Mr. Trasatti stated that the AWRC was initially more focused on drinking water and well water but that doesn't mean that the scope cannot expand to topics such as MS-4 permit compliance. Chair Wainwright asked what percentage of Town residents get their water from private wells, AWRC Member Sam Butler estimated at least 50%.

Sam Butler stated that the AWRC has not yet been very effective due to trying to find interested individuals to join, and subsequent turnover in members thereafter. Mr. Butler continued that the AWRC has a lot of good ideas and is slowly catching up to where they'd like to be.

Chair Wainwright stated that the Commission is working on an open space plan for how to prioritize parts of Town that should be protected that are not currently protected. Chair Wainwright continued that a draft should be ready for review in the next month, and added that he will forward a copy to Alternate Fried when it's ready so she may share it with the AWRC.

Alternate Fried asked if it would be feasible for the AWRC to become a subcommittee of the Commission. Chair Wainwright stated that the notion of protecting drinking water is much larger than just the Commission; it has to do with State regulations, zoning, and code enforcement, which is why he views the Commission as an unofficial subcommittee to the AWRC.

AWRC Member Joe Jordan brought up the topic of road salt and its effects on water resources, and proposed the idea of potentially approaching the Board of Selectman as a community to see if there is a way to reduce the amount of salt used on Town roads. Chair Wainwright stated that the residents who live in the Big Island Pond area are very concerned about the use of salt, and they conduct monitoring and have seen the salt levels in the lake rise each year.

Chair Wainwright stated that he would like the AWRC's opinion on the Land Conservation Plan that is nearing completion. Mr. Trasatti agreed to review the plan and provide comments. The AWRC Members thanked the Commission for their time.

Selectman Liaison Bob Worden joined the meeting at the close of this discussion.

4. Invasive Plant ID Workshop, June 18 – Advertising & Registration Process

Chair Wainwright stated that there is an invasive plant identification workshop coming up on June 18th. Chair Wainwright continued that he spoke with Greg Jordan, the County Forester, who will lead the program, and he confirmed the date. Chair Wainwright stated that he'd rather not have the registration posted on the Nature Groupie website since this will draw many attendees from out of Town, and residents may not have a chance to attend. Chair Wainwright continued that having residents attend will be important moving forward because he hopes to enlist volunteers to assist with invasive plant mitigation work, particularly on the Sawyer Town Forest. Chair Wainwright brought up the topic of parking and posed the idea of having attendees park at the secondary entrance to the Sawyer Town Forest to prevent on-street parking as much as possible.

Chair Wainwright stated that he is planning a scavenger hunt for the end of this workshop in which he will ask small groups to go out to collect, and pull, the largest variety of invasive plants and then bring them back for a brief discussion. Chair Wainwright continued that the process to register for this workshop is to send an email to conservation@atkinson-nh.gov expressing your interest in attending. Chair Wainwright stated that he advertised for this event in the Town newsletter to be sent out on June 1st, and on Facebook.

Member Nenart joined the meeting at the close of this discussion.

5. Short Reports & Discussions

a. Conservation Commission Secretary Responsibilities

Chair Wainwright stated that he met with Member Fournier to discuss his Secretarial responsibilities. Member Fournier summarized the

responsibilities as being involved with the new Town website by working with the Town Administrator to post more meaningful content for the residents. Member Fournier continued that updating the website will include plenty of community outreach and connecting more with local condominium associations on topics such as use of Open Space so wildlife may thrive. Member Fournier added that he will also now be monitoring the Commission's email inbox and will work to organize the emails into folders for future reference.

Chair Wainwright asked Mr. Worden about the status of the new website. Mr. Worden stated that the new website launch is planned for mid-June. Mr. Worden instructed Member Fournier to contact Select Board Vice Chair Beth Cacciotti about adding Commission content to the new website.

b. Trails & Maps – Map Supplies?

Chair Wainwright stated that Member Krause reports that he is running low on some of the trail maps and recommends placing an order for the following:

- 300 copies of the Sawyer Town Forest map
- 300 copies of the Woodlock Trails map
- 300 copies of the Marshall Town Forest map
- 200 copies of the Crown Hill map
- 200 copies of the South Sawmill map
- 100 copies of the Marshall nature trail brochure

Chair Wainwright stated that the printing fees for the above maps should total about \$350.00 based on prior per-piece costs.

Member Nenart made a motion to authorize Dennis Krause to place an order for trail maps, in an approximate amount of \$350.00.

Member Fournier seconded the motion. Vote: 6/0/0

c. Troop 9 News?

Chair Wainwright stated that since Vice Chair Steele is not present, this discussion will be tabled until the next meeting.

d. ADA-compliant Trail & ARPA Funding

Chair Wainwright asked Mr. Worden to give an update on the ADA-compliant trail project. Mr. Worden stated that everything is in flux while the Town waits for the second tranche of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, which should arrive between May & August of this year. Mr. Worden continued that the ADA-compliant trail, in the amount of \$18,500.00, is still on the list of ARPA projects, but the list is filling up

quickly, and recently the Board has had some consternation in regard to spending so he cannot make any promises at this time that the project will be approved.

e. Land Conservation Plan Update

Chair Wainwright stated that he had some good meetings with Julie LaBranche, and she stated that she got the information she needed during the last Commission meeting discussion. Chair Wainwright continued that he and Julie will meet again on June 13th, at which time she should have all of the text written with the exception of conclusions & recommendations. Chair Wainwright stated that the plan will then be ready for final formatting and the Commission will be able to review the plan at the next meeting on June 22nd, if they feel there is enough time to review the plan and conduct routine business within the meeting. Chair Wainwright continued that if all goes accordingly, the Plan should be finished and ready for printing by sometime in July.

f. Selective Cut on Stickney

Chair Wainwright stated that he and Member Chretien attended a three-session workshop in which Charlie Moreno was one of the instructors. Chair Wainwright continued that Mr. Moreno stated that although his costs have gone up because of the need to get a State permit to cross the Route 111 Right-of-Way, it appears as though the Commission will still break even on costs when this project is complete, but Mr. Moreno could not be sure of this. Mr. Moreno suggested that the scope of the cut be increased, and asked if the Commission wanted to conduct any selective cuts on the Marshall Town Forest. Member Nenart asked if adding the Marshall Town Forest to this cut would be financially beneficial. Chair Wainwright stated that he thinks the Commission may be more likely to benefit financially by adding the Marshall Town Forest to this cut. Member Nenart asked if the Marshall Town Forest was *due* for a selective cut; Chair Wainwright responded that he believes it is due.

Chair Wainwright stated that Mr. Marino was finally able to secure the permit from the State that allows him to use their right-of-way to access all of the Stickney land. Member Kukshel suggested publicizing these selective cuts to let residents know what is happening and, more importantly, why it is happening.

g. IRS Forms for Susan Beckhorn – Still “In Process”

Chair Wainwright reminded the Commission that, at a previous meeting, the Commission approved having a second IRS-appropriate appraisal of the Susan Beckhorn land done, and the appraisal has come in higher than the previously appraisal, which is good for Ms. Beckhorn. Chair Wainwright continued that completing the IRS forms for the land donation

is still in process due to Ms. Beckhorn's accountant being so backed up with other work.

h. Other Business

Member Nenart thanked Member Fournier for all of the hard work he put into the birding event with Matt Tarr, which was a great success.

The Commission had a brief discussion about the benefits they obtained from the "info table" at the pollinator event.

6. Review and approval of minutes:

a. April 27, 2022 Public

Chair Wainwright presented the minutes of the April 27, 2022 public meeting and asked for comments or corrections, there were none.

Member Nenart made a motion to approve the public meeting minutes of the 04/27/2022 meeting, as written. Member Kukshtel seconded the motion. Members McVay & Fried abstained from the vote since they were not present at the meeting. Vote: 4/0/2, the motion carried.

b. April 27, 2022 Non-public

Chair Wainwright presented the minutes of the April 27, 2022 non-public meeting, stated that he corrected the attendance list and asked for other comments or corrections, there were none.

Member Fournier made a motion to approve the non-public meeting minutes of the 04/27/2022 meeting, as amended above. Member Kukshtel seconded the motion. Members McVay & Fried abstained from the vote since they were not present at the meeting. Vote: 4/0/2, the motion carried.

7. Next Regular Meetings: June 22 and July 27, 2022, at 7:00PM

8. Hold the Date: NH ACC Annual Conference will be Saturday, November 5, 2022

Chair Wainwright stated that he has been invited to serve on the Board of Directors for the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions. The Commission congratulated Chair Wainwright on the accomplishment.

9. **Non-Public session under NH RSA 91-A:3, II (d), for consideration of the acquisition of land**

Member Fried made a motion to go into a non-public session under NH RSA 91-A:3, II (d) for the consideration of the acquisition of land. Member Nenart seconded the motion. Vote: 6/0/0

[The non-public minutes are contained in a separate file.]

Member Nenart made a motion to exit non-public session. Alternate Fried seconded. The vote: 6/0/0, the motion carried.

Alternate Fried made a motion to seal the minutes from the non-public portion of the May 25, 2022 meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission, to be reconsidered at the June 2022 meeting of the Commission unless the matters discussed are resolved and the minutes are unsealed sooner than that. Secretary Fournier seconded the motion. The vote: 6/0/0, the motion carried.

10. **Adjournment**

Member Kukshel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member McVay seconded the motion. Vote: 6/0/0, the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary Gilberti, Recording Clerk

Attachments:

- a) Treasurer's Report
- b) Conservation Commission Mission Statement
- c) Mission Statement and Goals of the Water Resources Committee

Town of Atkinson Conservation Commission 2022 Expenditure Tracking

Account Number	Description	TM Approved 2021 Budget		What	Amount	Date Prepared	Date Submitted	Amount Submitted	YTD Total	YTD Unspent
				Rounding	Hrs			\$ -		
				April 27, 2022 Minutes	4.5	\$82.62	5/6/2022	5/6/2022	\$82.62	
				March 23, 2022 Minutes	4	\$73.44	3/29/2022	3/29/2022	\$73.44	
				February 23, 2022 Minutes	5	\$91.80	3/3/2022	3/3/2022	\$91.80	
				January 26, 2022 Minutes	4.5	\$82.62	2/2/2022	2/2/2022	\$82.62	\$ 330.48
				Budget Adjustment - removed			00/00/2020		\$ -	
40.46111.110.00	RECORDING CLERK	\$ 1,200.00	Rate --> 18.36	Budget Adjustment - removed				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 869.52
				Rounding						
				April 27, 2022 Minutes		\$5.12	5/6/2022	5/6/2022	\$5.12	
				March 23, 2022 Minutes		\$4.55	3/29/2022	3/29/2022	\$4.55	
				February 23, 2022 Minutes		\$5.69	3/3/2022	3/3/2022	\$5.69	
				January 26, 2022 Minutes		\$5.12	2/2/2022	2/2/2022	\$5.12	\$ 20.49
				Budget Adjustment - removed			12/17/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.220.00	FICA .062	\$ 75.00	Rate --> 0.062	Budget Adjustment - removed				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54.51
				Rounding						
				April 27, 2022 Minutes		\$1.20	5/6/2022	5/6/2022	\$1.20	
				March 23, 2022 Minutes		\$1.06	3/29/2022	3/29/2022	\$1.06	
				February 23, 2022 Minutes		\$1.33	3/3/2022	3/3/2022	\$1.33	
				January 26, 2022 Minutes		\$1.20	2/2/2022	2/2/2022	\$1.20	\$ 4.79
				Budget Adjustment - removed			12/17/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.225.00	Medicare .0145	\$ 20.00	Rate --> 0.0145	Budget Adjustment - removed				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15.21
				Lavelle - Stickney encroachment work		\$900.00	4/27/2022	4/27/2022	\$900.00	\$ 900.00
				Budget Adjustment - added			12/16/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.390.00	OTHER PROF SERVICES	\$ 2,500.00		Budget Adjustment - added				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00
				Budget Adjustment - Added			12/17/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.550.00	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$ 1,000.00		Budget Adjustment - added				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
				Budget Adjustment - removed			12/16/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.560.00	DUES/SUBS/MEMBERSHIPS	\$ 500.00		Budget Adjustment - added				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
				Budget Adjustment - removed			12/16/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.620.00	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 1.00		Budget Adjustment - added			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 1.00
				Budget Adjustment - Added			12/17/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.625.00	POSTAGE	\$ 1.00		Budget Adjustment - added				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.00
				Budget Adjustment - removed			12/15/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.650.00	CARE OF GROUNDS	\$ 2,500.00		Budget Adjustment - removed				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
				Budget Adjustment - removed			12/15/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.740.00	NEW EQUIPMENT	\$ 300.00		Budget Adjustment - added			12/7/2020		\$ -	\$ 300.00
	2021 rate per mile: 0.56			Budget Adjustment - removed			12/15/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.820.00	MILEAGE	\$ 39.00		Budget Adjustment - removed				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39.00
				Suzie - Pollinator & duck box posts		\$201.93	4/22/2022	4/22/2022	\$201.93	
				Barry Camp Tuition for Jake Martineau		\$330.00	5/6/2022	5/6/2022	\$330.00	
				Recording Fee for 4 Industrial Cons Esmt		\$49.36	3/14/2022	3/14/2022	\$49.36	
				Eagle Scout project - Jack Carrubba		\$248.15	2/2/2022	2/2/2022	\$248.15	\$ 829.44
				Budget Adjustment - removed			12/15/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.840.00	SPECIAL PROGRAMS	\$ 1,000.00		Budget Adjustment - removed				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 170.56
				Budget Adjustment - Added			12/17/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.850.00	EDUCATION & CONFERENCES	\$ 250.00		Budget Adjustment - added				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00
				Budget Adjustment			12/17/2019		\$ -	
40.46111.875.00	SIGNS	\$ 500.00		Budget Adjustment - removed				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
	TOTALS	\$ 9,886.08							\$ 2,085.20	\$ 7,800.88

TOWN OF ATKINSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
21 Academy Avenue
Atkinson, New Hampshire 03811

Mission Statement

Approved May 7, 2018

The Atkinson Conservation Commission was established by vote at Town Meeting in March of 1974 (Article 1974-23), and operates under the provisions of RSA 36-A. Our mission is to:

- Provide a focal point within the town for environmental concerns. Be an advocate for the conservation of our natural environment, and raise public awareness of the benefits of open space in our town.
- Serve as an advisory board to the NH State Wetlands Bureau and the Atkinson Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment for permitting and variance issues.
- Manage the Town Forests, as authorized by RSA 31:112 and numerous Town Meeting votes, including but not limited to periodic selective logging, invasive species control, and establishment of public use regulations.
- Inspire, organize, encourage, advise, and educate conservation-minded residents to help maintain the town's conservation trails, and provide signage, blazes, maps, and interpretive markers to facilitate the public's use and enjoyment of our open spaces.
- Actively seek out opportunities to further protect our dwindling open spaces and groundwater resources, including but not limited to purchasing land, or conservation easements to land. Where possible, look for grants to augment our town's Conservation Fund.
- Help town residents understand wetland zoning and state regulations, and advise homeowners with questions about their property, especially those private lands that abut conservation lands.
- Support Scout Troup 9 and similar organizations by providing opportunities, guidance, and modest funding for Eagle Scout and other conservation-related public service projects.

ATKINSON WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Atkinson Water Resources Committee was formed by the Atkinson Select Board to serve as an advisory and educational resource to the Town of Atkinson and its residents on issues concerning environmental sustainability, with a focus on water access, quality, conservation, economics, education, and regulation. The Committee will also serve as the primary advisor to the Select Board on all issues pertaining to water resources.

Committee duties as outlined by the Atkinson Select Board on behalf of the town of Atkinson:

- 1.) To monitor via the NH DES OneStop site the registered Water User (RWU) water usage in the town and report the usage to the Select Board;
- 2.) To first bring to the Atkinson Select Board all water related issues which may affect the town or neighboring towns;
- 3.) Track and report on relevant water issues at the state level, specifically legislative initiatives, DES and PUC actions which may affect Atkinson and neighboring towns;
- 4.) Apply for grants that will enhance the future of water resources in our community.

It is the Committee's intent to operate on the principles of transparency, fact-based analysis, and inclusion.

5/25/2022