

Atkinson Conservation Commission Minutes
Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 7:00 PM
Via Zoom (no physical venue)

Approved February 24, 2021

Members Present:

Paul Wainwright, Chair
Bill Steele, Vice Chair
Jeff Nenart
Denise Legault
Dennis Krause
Pete McVay
Scott Kukshel
Suzie Newman (Alternate)
John Fournier (Alternate)

Others Present:

Bob Worden, Selectmen Liaison

1. Call to Order, Emergency Declaration, and Attendance (via roll-call)

Chair Paul Wainwright called the meeting to order via Zoom conference call at 7:00PM on Wednesday January 27, 2021. Chair Wainwright began the meeting by reading the state-of-emergency declaration that can be found in Attachment A. Chair Wainwright took attendance via a roll call and all members are present with the exception of Alternate Borisko.

2. Review and Approval of minutes: December 23, 2020 Public & Non-Public Sessions

Chair Wainwright requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2020 public meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission, noting the lack of Ryan Torres' name on the attendance list. Member Kukshel noted an apparent copy & paste error towards the end, Chair Wainwright stated that he'd make the amendments to the final copy.

Member Nenart made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2020 public session of the Atkinson Conservation Commission, as amended above. Member McVay seconded the motion. Vote: 7/0/0. (The details of this roll-call vote can be found in Attachment B).

Chair Wainwright requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2020 non-public meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission.

Member McVay made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2020 non-public session of the Atkinson Conservation Commission, as written. Member Legault seconded the motion. Vote: 7/0/0. (The details of this roll-call vote can be found in Attachment B).

3. 2021 Treasurer's Report - Paul

Chair Wainwright stated that the only funds spent from the budget thus far were the recording clerk's fees for the December 2020 minutes, so no spreadsheet was presented.

4. Marshall Town Forest Encroachments Recommendation – postpone to February

Chair Wainwright stated that this would need to be postponed until our February meeting due to the number of files that still need to be reviewed before a recommendation can be written. Chair Wainwright doesn't anticipate much movement on this issue until after the winter months are over; therefore, he believes it can wait.

5. Eagle Project Proposal – Jack Carrubba

Chair Wainwright stated that Troop 9 Scout Jack Carrubba would like to repair some of the benches on the Chadwick Town Forest for his Eagle Scout Project. Chair Wainwright continued that this conversation would be postponed until February when Jack can join the Commission to present his project idea. Member Krause stated that there were five benches that he saw when he walked the property with Jack that could use repair, with the potential for an additional bench along the shore. Member Krause continued that this would be quite a project if someone were to take it on but they would make a nice addition to the Fit Trail. Selectman Liaison Worden stated he has some funds to contribute to this project and hopes it can be done by June.

Vice Chair Steele stated that he has another Eagle Scout candidate who has a project idea for the Stickney Town Forest as well; more details will be communicated once the idea has been solidified. The Commission asked Vice Chair Steele various questions about the Eagle Scout project process to brainstorm other projects that could be done around Town.

6. Jameson Hill inquiry to sell/trade Map 20 Lot 15 for Map 20 Lot 16-1

Chair Wainwright introduced Jameson Hill, showed a map of the conservation lands in and around the Stickney Town Forest, and shared some history on this particular area. Jameson Hill stated that he has already signed a Purchase & Sales agreement with Charles Kinney for lots 20-16 & 20-16-1. Jameson Hill stated that lot 20-16-1 is a small piece of rugged terrain which is surrounded mostly by Town-owned conservation land, and is essentially un-buildable, although it is a nice area of woods for hiking. Chair Wainwright stated that Jameson Hill is proposing a trade of lot 20-16-1 for lot 20-15. Jameson Hill understands the difference in property values so he is prepared to add monetary compensation to the deal but he thinks it makes the most sense for everyone involved.

The Commission asked questions and shared some historical knowledge of the area which included some very stringent conservation easements which may prevent this deal from coming to fruition. Chair Wainwright shared section of the deed to 20-15 which states:

“This deed is subject to the following conditions: (1) Legal title to such property [is] to be held only by a New Hampshire municipal corporation, and (2) The Grantee [i.e., Atkinson] and its successors and interests hold such property exclusively for the public uses of inhabitants; and the Grantor [i.e., the State] reserves the power for itself and its successors in interest to re-enter and terminate the estate hereby conveyed if either such condition is ever breached.”

Chair Wainwright stated that, as a result of this document and as a result of the Board of Selectmen’s original intentions for the land, the Commission would likely not be able to support this proposed trade. Chair Wainwright asked the Commission for other comment, there was some discussion but the Commission generally agreed that this trade proposal would not be possible. Member Kukshel mentioned the nearby prime wetland, which should incentivize the Commission to consider this deal because it offers more of a buffer zone of protection. Chair Wainwright asked Mr. Hill if he’d be willing to sell lot 20-16-1 to the Town if the trade deal was not an option, and Jameson Hill confirmed that he would likely be interested selling.

7. Review and Approval of Annual Report

Chair Wainwright produced a copy of the current version of the Annual Report and went over some of the highlights and edits he made since previous iterations. Chair Wainwright asked for further changes, when hearing none he requested a motion to approve.

Vice Chair Steele made a motion to approve the 2020 Town Annual Report as amended. Member Legault seconded the motion. Vote: 7/0/0. (The details of this roll-call vote can be found in Attachment B).

8. Short Reports

a. Sawyer Invasives Mowing

Chair Wainwright stated that this work has been completed and, although it looks a bit rough right now, in time this work will allow the forest to flourish once again. Chair Wainwright continued that the bill was paid within ten days which saved the Commission three percent of the total invoice amount.

b. Warrant Article Publicity

Chair Wainwright produced a small poster he created to help illustrate the parcels of land to be added to the Town Forest in the proposed warrant article. Chair Wainwright continued that since he would not be able to make it to the Town Deliberative Session, he would pass his talking points on to Vice Chair Steele & Member Nenart who will speak in his stead.

c. Trails and Maps

Chair Wainwright asked for an update. Member Krause stated that he is excited to see there is a lot of activity on the trails but as a result, maps will soon need to be reordered for at least the Marshall, Woodlock, Crown Hill, & Sawyer Town Forests. Member Krause continued that he would also have some updates and edits for these maps before more are printed. Chair Wainwright approved the purchase of another run of maps for the Town Forest trails.

d. *Wild Atkinson* video

Chair Wainwright asked for an update. Member McVay stated that he sent out a project timeline to the Commission and so far, he has received great support from various Members. Member McVay stated that the next step

is to find narrators and that he'd be reaching out to the Commission for volunteers.

e. Pollinator Pathways

Chair Wainwright asked for an update. Alternate Newman stated that she's planning an event at Freshwater Farms for this coming April in which she'd be able to educate folks and pass out the milkweed seeds at the same time, but since COVID concerns are still active she is wondering if now is the best time to plan this event. The Commission discussed the matter and agreed that it is entirely up to Freshwater Farms since it is their business, but it can probably be done safely with masks and social distancing. Alternate Newman stated that she needs to follow up with Freshwater Farms and will let the Commission know what the future plans are.

f. ATVs on Sawyer

Chair Wainwright asked for an update. Alternate Fournier stated that he has encountered some people on motorized vehicles on the trails in the recent past and that some of the riders have also been tearing down the "No Trespassing" signs on a property in Massachusetts. Alternate Fournier continued that he has traced most of the activity back to one house and will be informing the Atkinson Police Department for follow up.

g. Barry Conservation Camp – Jake Martineau

Chair Wainwright stated that Jake Martineau has been registered for Barry Conservation Camp and the next step is for Jake and his family to fill out the information packet and return it.

h. Moose Plate Land Conservation Plan

Chair Wainwright stated that he is continually working with Julie LaBranche and is nearing completion on the first four sections of the plan, which includes a section on the goals of the plan, a section on the history of conservation in Atkinson, a section on the reasons why conservation is important, and a section on different methods to conserve land. Chair Wainwright continued that work is progressing, although slower than he'd like.

i. Other reports?

Selectman Liaison Bob Worden thanked the Commission for a great year in 2020 and stated that he looks forward to working with them in 2021. Selectman Worden wished the Commission good luck on their warrant article discussions at the Town Deliberative Session, and encouraged the

speakers to keep the discussions short and to-the-point. Chair Wainwright thanked Selectman Worden for his continued support and encouragement.

9. Other Business

10. Next meeting: February 24, 2021 (4th Wednesday at 7:00)

11. Adjournment

Chair Wainwright adjourned the meeting by consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary Gilberti, Recording Clerk

Attachments:

- a. State-of-Emergency Declaration**
- b. Details of Roll-Call Votes**

Attachment A

A Checklist To Ensure Meetings Are Compliant With The Right-to-Know Law During The State Of Emergency

As Chair of the [Atkinson Conservation Commission](#), I find that, due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing [Zoom](#) for this electronic meeting. All members of the [Commission](#) have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # [+1 929 205 6099](#) with meeting ID [952 3204 2695](#) and **phone** password [666323](#), or by clicking on the following website address:

<https://zoom.us/j/92163965777?pwd=VndoaVU3NW1jdit0QII0SG9mdW5mZz09>

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the [Town of Atkinson](#) at:

www.town-atkinsonnh.com.

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:

If anybody has a problem, please call [362-4549](#) or email at: stationmgr@atkinson-nh.gov.

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

