

**Atkinson Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 7:00 PM**  
Via Zoom (no physical venue)

Approved April 29, 2021

**Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Bob Worden, Selectmen Liaison (arrived late)  
Kate Rochford, Historical Society President  
Jeff Flieder, Scoutmaster  
Jake McManus  
Jack Carrubba, Eagle Scout Candidate

**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 March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Chair Wainwright began the meeting by reading the state-of-emergency declaration. Chair Wainwright took attendance via a roll call and all members are present with the exception of Member Nenart and Alternate Borisko. Alternate Fournier will be voting in place of Member Nenart until he arrives.

**2. Promotions & New Appointments**

Chair Wainwright stated that Member Legault will be stepping down to an Alternate position due to her involvement with the Big Island Pond Committee. Chair Wainwright continued that he regrettably accepted Member Krause's resignation from the Commission. Member Krause stated his appreciation for the time he spent with the Commission, and stated that he plans on travelling more and spending more time with his family, so it is time for him to move on. Chair Wainwright continued that the two openings left by Members Legault and Krause have been accepted as "promotions" by Alternates Newman & Fournier, which leaves two openings for Alternate Members. Chair Wainwright stated that Karen Wood and Jake McManus have indicated an interest in the Alternate Member openings.

### **3. Review and Approval of minutes: February 24, 2021**

Chair Wainwright requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2021 public meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission.

**Member McVay made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2021 public session of the Atkinson Conservation Commission, as amended. Vice Chair Steele seconded the motion. Member Legault abstained. Vote: 6/0/1. (The details of this roll-call vote can be found attached to these minutes).**

### **4. 2021 Treasurer's Report and 2021 Operating Budget**

Chair Wainwright stated that the only funds spent in the last month have been to pay the recording clerk for meeting minute preparation.

### **5. Scout Activities:**

#### **a. Eagle projects – Jack Carrubba**

Jack Carrubba shared a presentation of the plan for his Eagle Scout project, which will include installing a new bench and relocating & repairing five existing benches along the Woodlock Park trail system. Jack continued by showing the project costs, which come to \$94.03 in total. The Commission asked some questions and expressed their general approval of this project.

#### **b. Service projects – Sawyer?**

Chair Wainwright introduced Troop 9 Scoutmaster Jeff Flieder, who stated that he has some scouts in need of service projects. Jeff stated that he and Vice Chair Steele can work together to come up with a list of trail maintenance or other day projects that can be accomplished. Vice Chair Steele stated that there is no shortage of projects around Town.

*Member Nenart entered the meeting at this time around 7:30PM*

#### **c. Camping in the Chadwick TF**

Scout Master Flieder stated that another venue has been found for their April camping trip, so no camping approvals from the Commission are needed at this time.

## 6. Sawyer Town Forest:

### a. Next steps with invasive plant management

Chair Wainwright stated that he met with Arianna Spear and Tracey Degan from the Rockingham County Conservation District on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to walk the Sawyer Land to view the “mowing” work that was done to mitigate the invasive plant species in the area; they were thoroughly impressed with the work done.

Chair Wainwright stated that Tracey sent a proposal for the next phase of this process which would include the selective use of herbicides, and asked what the Commission thought about the proposal. The Commission generally agreed that this next step is necessary to keep the invasive plants out.

Alternate Newman brought up the idea of having an educational session for residents to explain why invasive plant management is important, and how to do it . Chair Wainwright stated that this second phase of the project will only require a few volunteers, but continued that Phase 3 will involve a lot of volunteers to “weed the woods” of invasive plants, and the Commission will be welcoming as many volunteers as possible.

Chair Wainwright requested a motion to accept the proposal by the Rockingham County Conservation District to perform Step Two of the invasive management in the Sawyer Town Forest, and to authorize \$5,480.00 be spent out of the Forest Maintenance Fund to pay for that work.

**Vice Chair Steele made a motion to accept the proposal by the Rockingham County Conservation District to perform Step Two of the invasive management project in the Sawyer Town Forest, and to authorize that \$5,480.00 be spent out of the Forest Maintenance Fund to pay for that work. Vote: 7/0/0. (The details of this roll-call vote can be found attached to these minutes).**

A copy of the signed proposal is attached to these minutes.

### b. General cleanup of the area

See the discussion above about Boy Scout community service.

### c. Historical Society interest in the cellar hole?

Chair Wainwright introduced Kate Rochford from the Historical Society, who stated that she just learned of this cellar hole, and she’d like to present it at the next Historical Society Board of Directors meeting to see how they’d like to proceed. The Commission expressed a general

consensus that the Historical Society could use the site for historical research into the Town's history, including metal detecting (see the next item).

**d. Policy on metal detecting; David Malak request**

Chair Wainwright stated that he verbally allowed David Malak of the Historical Society to use his metal detector on Town lands with the intent that anything collected would be catalogued and put on display. The Commission were in agreement, and expressed a need for a "No Metal Detectors" sign. Chair Wainwright said he would order one.

**e. Safety of the partially covered well**

Chair Wainwright stated that there is a well at the Sawyer cellar hole that is partially covered, and continued that it should be filled in or otherwise fenced off so no one hurts themselves. The Commission agreed that filling it in may not be the best idea because of the historical items that may be sitting at the bottom of the well; filling in the well may cover up some great artifacts. Member Nenart stated that it may be worth building a wooden cover for the top of it and to make a display out of it so residents can learn about the well.

Member Fournier stated that he'd work with Member Krause to suitably fence off the well until a permanent cover can be constructed and installed. Member McVay stated that he would engage the New Hampshire Archeology Society to find out what can be done to protect a potentially historic site such as this well. Chair Wainwright thanked Kate Rochford for taking interest in these matters and asked her to let him know how the Commission could help.

*Chair Wainwright stepped away from the meeting at 7:52PM.*

**7. Pollinator Pathways and the April 10 Seed Give-Away – Suzie**

Alternate Newman stated that this seed giveaway event was publicized on the front of the Carriage Towne News. Alternate Newman continued that the next step of this process is to take the milkweed seeds that were collected this past fall and to package them up so they can be given to residents in order to begin growing pollinator waystations for Monarch Butterflies. Alternate Newman stated that information packets will be handed out in conjunction with the seeds so residents can educate themselves on other plants that can be used to help with pollinators, including information on how to become a certified pollinator waystation.

*Chair Wainwright returned to the meeting at 7:54PM*

Alternate Newman stated that there will also be raffles held on the day of the event a book and a children's Monarch butterfly kit, with the hopes of drawing in parents that want to get their children involved. Alternate Newman asked for the Commission's help to share the social media posts when she posts them to help increase awareness of the event. Alternate Newman stated, finally, that volunteers from the Commission are welcome to come by and support the interaction with the community. Chair Wainwright thanked Alternate Newman for all of her efforts thus far.

## **8. "To-do List" Brainstorming**

Chair Wainwright stated that the weather is getting nice, and asked the Commission to brainstorm things that need to be done in the near future. Here are people's thoughts:

- Member McVay stated that a large portion of the Sawyer Land is a wetland and what he'd like to see is for the areas to be made walkable with boardwalks that have worked well in similar wetlands in the State. This would make the land easier to traverse and offer environmental protections as well.
- Chair Wainwright suggested finding the exact boundaries of Town owned lands that have not yet been marked; in particular parts of Sawyer Town Forest.
- Alternate Fournier stated that the East/West section of the [Sawyer] blue trail, that crosses the State border, is usually underwater and would be better if the trail were moved back onto Town land and a boardwalk was added.
- Member Krause suggested that on the Orr Town forest, the trail isn't very well defined and should be blazed and cleared again with chainsaws and other similar tools and equipment.
- Alternate Newman would like to find a place on Town owned land to grow a pollinator garden to set an example for the residents and to get them involved but she is unsure where this would be located.

## **9. Ideas for UNH-led programs**

Chair Wainwright asked the Commission for ideas on programs they'd like to see from UNH, and offered the example of invasive plant identification training. Vice Chair Steele produced a copy of an invasive plant guide that is downloadable from the UNH website. Chair Wainwright stated that he was also considering a program based on tree identification, which usually seems to be a popular topic amongst residents; the target for this training is June of this year.

Member Nenart suggested a course on wild mushroom identification, Chair Wainwright stated he would check with UNH to see if such a course exists. Vice Chair Steele suggested scheduling another animal tracking session with Emma Tutein, Chair Wainwright agreed.

## **10. Short Reports and Discussions**

### **a. Trails and Maps – Dennis**

Member Krause stated that the trails are in good shape and are getting good foot traffic lately. Member Krause stated that the printed maps are in good supply as of right now and probably will be for the next year or two.

### **b. ATVs on Sawyer – again – John**

Member Fournier stated that there hasn't been much ATV activity in the recent past except where the trail merges with an old road that heads west towards North Broadway. Member Fournier continued that clearly marking the property boundaries will be important to ensure riders keep off Town land with their motorized vehicles. Member Fournier did not see the need for police intervention at this time.

### **c. Vandalism in the Marshall TF – Dennis**

Member Krause stated that there was some vandalism on the Marshall Land when someone took the maps from the main trailhead kiosk from the holders and took down the large acrylic map and broke it in half. A replacement map is on order and will be reinforced to prevent this from happening again.

### **d. Encroachments on the Marshall TF**

Chair Wainwright stated that Code Enforcement Officer Steve Nasser is making good progress in reaching out to all parties involved to ensure all are aware of the issues and taking appropriate corrective actions. Chair Wainwright continued that the first house, owned by Steve Councilman, is not currently using the area that is encroached. so this lot is a non-issue.

Chair Wainwright stated that the second house, owned by the Bibeau Family, which has recently been listed for sale, has moved the shed & jungle-gym, but the new locations have not been confirmed to be entirely off Town land. Chair Wainwright continued that the septic tank location, which was previously in question, has been resolved and is not encroaching on Town land based on his review of the photos when it was installed (a copy of these photos is attached). As a result, this lot will also be a non-issue once the shed & jungle-gym locations have been confirmed.

Chair Wainwright stated that the third house owned by Katrina Arsenault still has a brush pile on Town land, but she claims it was left by previous owners. Chair Wainwright suggests leaving the pile alone and letting it

decompose back into nature. As such, this lot is essentially also a non-issue.

Chair Wainwright stated that the fourth house, owned by Henry Barry, currently has a boat stored under a tent, and after a contentious discussion with Steve Nasser, the homeowner has agreed to move the tent once the boat is placed in the water for this coming season. The homeowner has agreed to clean up the shooting range as well.

Chair Wainwright stated that the last encroaching lot belongs to Jim & Jean Foley, who do not have items permanently stored on Town land but do install a seasonal dock on Town land for canoe/kayak launching. Steve Nasser suggests following Town counsel's idea of posting a "No Trespassing" sign, which would lay down clear instructions against using their dock, which, if not followed, would be prosecutable. The Commission had a discussion on how to handle this situation, and agreed that Steve Nasser should start with a letter to the Foley family reminding them that they are not to place their dock on Town land; otherwise a "No Trespassing" sign will be posted and subsequent legal action will be taken as necessary.

**e. *Wild Atkinson* video – Pete**

Member McVay stated that this project is still underway, he is currently working on the script with help from the Station Manager Dave Williams. Member McVay continued that he received many great photo submissions and resident interest, which was greatly appreciated. Member McVay stated, finally, that he should have a better idea on when a rough draft will be ready after meeting with Dave Williams in the near future.

**f. *NH Bio Blitz***

Chair Wainwright stated that he applied to UNH to host this event in Atkinson, which would bring in some plant and wildlife biologists to assist volunteers to do a biological scavenger hunt to make an inventory of plants and animals on a given piece of land in town. Chair Wainwright continued that the benefit of hosting such an event is that the Town then has a detailed catalogue of some of the species located around Town, and we would get some really excellent training. Chair Wainwright stated, finally, that only two applicants (towns) are selected for this event, so it is very competitive but he will keep the Commission abreast of any updates. If selected, the event would take place in September.

**g. *Emerald Ash Borer* and our *Champion Ash***

Chair Wainwright stated that Bill Davidson is doing experimental work with Emerald Ash Borers on the Sawyer Town forest. Chair Wainwright stated that they've released a parasitoid wasp-like insect (no harm to humans)

which, by its nature, lays its eggs on the Emerald Ash Borer larvae and kills them. Chair Wainwright stated that the Champion Ash was treated with an insecticide three years ago, and will be re-treated by Bill Davidson later this season. A copy of recent email from Bill Davidson is attached.

#### **h. Moose Plate Land Conservation Plan**

Chair Wainwright stated that this project is moving very slowly, partially because Julie LaBranche of the Rockingham Planning Commission is vastly overworked. Chair Wainwright stated that he would prompt Julie again and encourage her to make progress with reviewing the four introductory sections.

#### **i. When to return to in-person meetings?**

Chair Wainwright asked the Commission if anyone had strong feelings about when to restart in-person meetings rather than virtual ones. The Commission had some reservations but generally agreed that they could try a hybrid option starting in May where members could attend in-person if they so choose.

*Selectmen Liaison Bob Worden entered the meeting at 8:41PM*

#### **j. Other reports?**

### **11. The “Worden Report” – Bob Worden**

Selectmen Liaison Bob Worden stated that the Selectman had their annual appointments and Selectman Greg Spero is now the Chair with Selectman Bill Friel as the Vice Chair. Selectman Worden stated that the Selectmen had to cut about \$105,000.00 from this year’s budget since the operating budget did not pass at Town elections in March. Selectman Worden continued that no funding was taken from the Conservation Commission. Selectman Worden stated, finally, that he will stay on as the Selectmen Liaison to the Commission for another year.

### **12. Other Business: Page Farm**

Chair Wainwright stated that the Page Farm developers came before the Planning Board last week and received an extension to the period of time with which they can obtain their Alteration of Terrain permit.

While this was a disappointment to some people, Chair Wainwright stated that Planning Boards have very strict rules on what they can and cannot do when sitting as the ‘jury’ on development projects. Planning Boards may not make judgements based on prior knowledge or any personal biases. Chair Wainwright said that, since he could not make a decision in this case without the influence of



his prior knowledge and publicly-stated personal biases, he recused himself from the discussion.

About whether he could participate and vote in other matters that come before the Planning Board, Chair Wainwright stated that he is unsure if *all* of his decisions would be considered biased since, in most cases, he would have already discussed many of these developments with the Commission before they came to the Planning Board. As it stands now, Chair Wainwright believes the bias issue occurs only if he has stated his opinions publicly. Therefore, in the future when a matter relating to a Planning Board application is discussed during a Conservation Commission meeting, he will lead the discussion, present the facts, ask for insight from other Commission members, but not state an opinion either favoring or opposing the matter himself. If the Planning Board (or ZBA) is looking for a recommendation from the Commission, Chair Wainwright stated that he will refrain from the vote in order that there be no record of a possible disqualifying bias on his part.

**13. Next meeting: April 28, 2021 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday) at 7:00**

**14. Hold the date: NH ACC Annual Conference will be Saturday, November 6, 2021**

**15. Adjournment**

Chair Wainwright requested a motion to adjourn.

**Member Nenart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member McVay seconded the motion. Motion passed by consensus.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary Gilberti, Recording Clerk

**Attachments:**

- a. Emergency declaration
- b. Details of Roll-Call Votes
- c. Treasurer's Report
- d. Signed RCCD proposal
- e. Photos of 44 Boulder Cove Road septic
- f. Email from Bill Davidson about the EAB and our Champion Ash

## 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 [921 2533 6535](#) and **phone** password [730856](#), 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](http://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](mailto: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.







**Rockingham County  
Conservation District**

Tel: (603) 679-2790  
Brentwood, NH 03833-6614  
110 North Road

# Estimate

Date	Estimate #
3/23/2021	10018
Terms	

Name / Address
Paul Wainwright Atkinson Conservation Commission 21 Academy Avenue, Atkinson NH 03811

Project No./Name	Client Ref#	Street	Town
Description			Total
ESTIMATE FOR 2021 HERBICIDE TREATMENT- WOODY INVASIVE - SAWYER TOWN FOREST			
Invasive control: 2021 Watershed Special Permit application & follow-up effectiveness reporting			400.00
Invasive control: Low Volume Foliar- Year 1 Woody Invasives: Med Density 7 ac @ \$500/ac for Transition zone			3,500.00
Invasive control: Cut Stem/Basal Bark approximately 1-2 +/- acres @ \$780 for 1/2 day with 2-3 volunteers cutting with loppers ahead of RCCD staff - to include Oriental bittersweet vines and re-sprouts along stream if vegetation appears acceptable. Prefer Friday afternoon in mid-late September.			780.00
Covers travel, herbicide, mixing, and cleanup & project management			800.00
<p>SCOPE: This estimate is to perform invasive species control utilizing low impact herbicides. Primary target includes woody invasive species. Care will be taken to minimize damage to non-target plants.</p> <p>TERMS: This estimate is a flat fee estimate for a single treatment. Treatments over multiple years are often required for good control. No additional work will be conducted that exceeds the scope without prior authorization.</p> <p>ACCEPTANCE/SCHEDULE: Please provide an authorized signature below to indicate acceptance of these terms. Special permit application should begin immediately as approval may take several months.</p>			

Please sign to authorize the estimated work. This estimate is good for 90 days.

**Total** \$5,480.00

Authorized Signature

*Paul Wainwright*

MARCH 29, 2021



**Paul Wainwright**

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**From:** "Davidson, William" <William.Davidson@dncr.nh.gov>  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 10:02 AM  
**To:** "Paul Wainwright" <paulwainwright@comcast.net>  
**Cc:** <conservation@atkinson-nh.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Emerald Ash Borer

Hi Paul,

We have completed the 2 years of parasitoid releases recommended by USDA-APHIS and are now in the evaluation phase of the project. This means that over the next several years will be checking trees for signs of parasitoid establishment. So far we have been able to reliably recapture parasitoids at other release sites across the state, suggesting that they are readily becoming established in the environment and I expect the same to be true in Atkinson, but it is still too early in the process to determine exactly how effective they are. The parasitoids are unlikely to have an effect on the initial wave of emerald ash borer as it moves through, as the beetle populations spike in numbers too quickly for the wasps to respond. It is hoped that in the "aftermath forests" where only small diameter ash seedlings and saplings remain, the beetle populations will be lower and the wasp populations will be higher, allowing for a level of control which will allow ash to re-incorporate into the forest. This process will take decades to unfold, but in the Midwest, which is much farther along in the progression of things, signs are encouraging. Researchers in Michigan and Ohio are finding high levels of parasitism by the wasps on EAB in small diameter ash trees and I think a similar scenario should unfold in New Hampshire, but only time will tell.

As for the Champion Ash, it has been three years since the initial treatment so it is time for it to be retreated. I can visit the site sometime over the summer once trees have leafed-out and determine if it is still healthy enough to receive a second treatment. If so, I will be able to administer the treatment on my visit.

Sincerely,  
Bill Davidson  
Forest Health Specialist  
NH Davison of Forests and Lands  
603-892-5156

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**From:** Paul Wainwright <paulwainwright@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 5, 2021 9:45 AM  
**To:** Davidson, William <William.Davidson@dncr.nh.gov>  
**Cc:** conservation@atkinson-nh.gov  
**Subject:** Emerald Ash Borer

**EXTERNAL:** Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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Hi Bill --

Following up on your plan to release natural enemies of the EAB on the Sawyer land last summer, I'm wondering if you are able to tell if they are doing any good?

Also, would it be advisable to do another injection of insecticide into our champion ash tree, and if so, how would we go about arranging for that?