

**Town of Jackson Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes - June 7th, 2021 - Regular Meeting**  
**- UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED**

**Call to Order:** Jeff Sires, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. Attending were Members Jeff Sires, Brian Byrne, Ben Halcyon, and Pam Smillie. Member Ken Kimball informed Chairman Sires that he would be unable to attend. Members Mike Dufilho and Tom Seidel were also unable to attend. Public attendees included Hank Benesh. Audio and video recorded via the Zoom platform will be made available on Jacksonflicks.com.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the March and May meetings were not available at time of meeting. Their respective reviews were tabled until the July meeting.

**2021 Officers:** Chairman Sires opened a discussion about formalizing a roster of Commission officers for 2021. He stated that he would have no issue remaining as Chair so long as no other Member wanted the position, and Member Smillie encouraged him to retain the position. Member Halcyon did not state a desire to take any particular officer position but did mention he would be willing to fill a position if necessary.

**Jackson Falls:** Chairman Sires asked Member Smillie if she would be comfortable ordering materials to be used at Jackson Falls and schedule a work day to use said resources on the day of or a day or two after receipt. Member Smillie had spoken with Bob Santoro, who had agreed to lend the use of his machinery if given enough advance notice. Chairman Sires stated his intent to send an email to Commission Members to poll for a date and time that would satisfy their schedules. In response to a public comment, Chairman Sires noted that the work day might be a good time to continue discussion on Commission officer positions and other agenda items with Members who were not able to attend the June 7th meeting.

**Meeting Format:** Chairman Sires asked the Commission to consider the meeting format for future meetings. He stated that having meetings in person would be ideal but also noted the convenience of Zoom meetings. Member Halcyon shared Chairman Sires' view on the convenience of virtual meetings but also stated that latency was an issue and that more could potentially be discussed and/or accomplished when meeting in person.

**Wentworth Parking:** Chairman Sires reiterated a statement made at the Board of Selectmen meeting on May 25th on the subject of parking across from the Wentworth Hotel in Jackson. Chairman Barbara Campbell read into the minutes a notice from Ellie Koeppel, owner of the Wentworth Hotel, that the parking area was Wentworth property and should be used only by hotel guests. This would prevent visitors from parking there to access Jackson Falls.

**Prospect Farm:** Member Kimball informed Chairman Sires prior to the meeting that he would have a draft of the General Management Plan for Prospect Farm prepared for the next meeting.

**Gray's Inn:** There were no updates to this matter at time of meeting.

**Wildcat River:** Chairman Sires cited a message submitted from a member of the public to the Town, which asked about grass clippings and brush being piled along the Wildcat River behind the Snowflake Inn. He had confirmed the presence of that refuse and stated that it might constitute a wetlands impact. He stated his intent to communicate with the Snowflake Inn to determine a better approach to discarding the refuse. Member Halcyon elaborated on the issue, having had some experience with it in the past. He also stated that Japanese knotweed was also a known issue around the same area along the Wildcat River.

Chairman Sires proposed to contact the Town to determine whether the Transfer Station could offer a method to dispose of the plant matter. He also proposed opening some dialogue with the Snowflake Inn to determine a solution. To address the knotweed issue, Chairman Sires considered contacting the Rockingham County Conservation District, who had presented to the Jackson Conservation Commission on their efforts to cull knotweed in the past.

**Conservation Easements:** Chairman Sires noted that the time had come to send out monitoring letters and reminded Members to send the letters for which they were responsible.

**Wetlands:** Chairman Sires stated that the Commission received a minimum expedited wetlands permit for a private property across from Red Barn Road. The permit had been subsequently withdrawn due to some communication issues, but he anticipated seeing the permit again under a different context. No action was required at time of meeting.

**New Business:** Chairman Sires continued the discussion about the format for future meetings, stating that meetings would eventually need to return to in-person format. Hank Benesh, recorder for Jacksonflicks.com, stated he would be able to record the meetings in person even if held outdoors. Chairman Sires also considered maintaining the option for attendees to call in via Zoom. The Commission withheld making a decision until more of its Members were present.

**Public Comment:** Public attendees did not express any public comments for non-agenda discussion.

**Chairman Sires moved to adjourn the meeting, and Member Smillie seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted by Will Reisig