

Town of Jackson Conservation Commission

Minutes - April 5th, 2021 - Regular Meeting

- UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED

Call to Order: Jeff Sires, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Attending were Members Jeff Sires, Ken Kimball, Ben Halcyon, Mike Dufilho, Brian Byrne, Pam Smillie, Tom Seidel, and Selectman's Representative Dick Bennett. Also attending Planning Board Members Bill Terry, Sarah Kimball, and Scott Badger. Public attendees included Rich Brereton, Mark Dindorf, and Janis Pryor. Audio and video recorded via the Zoom platform will be made available on Jacksonflicks.com.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the February 1st meeting were reviewed. **Member Byrne motioned to approve the minutes, and Member Kimball seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.** Minutes from the March 1st meeting had not been completed at time of meeting. Members agreed to review and approve those minutes at the May meeting.

Saco Headwaters Alliance (SHA) Presentation: Rich Brereton and Mark Dindorf, representing the SHA, were recognized to give a presentation on Municipal Leadership for Source Water Protection. The presentation detailed the process and benefits of partnering with the SHA to identify and protect local source water and to identify and protect against potential contaminants. After the presentation, Member Kimball asked if the SHA had any opinion on the New Hampshire State program for water quantity. Rich responded that the SHA was collaborating with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to develop a water balance study for the three major aquifers in the region (Saco, Ossipee, Ward's Brook) and was seeking funding for a monitoring program.

Chairman Sires asked the attending Planning Board members if they planned to consider updating the Town's groundwater protection ordinance. Planning Board Chairman Bill Terry responded that the Planning Board had planned to examine the ordinance but had set aside the item in lieu of short-term rental issues and the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic. He concluded that the Board could reconsider the ordinance as an agenda item in future meetings. Member Dufilho asked if the SHA was willing and able to partner with local business and/or school programs to contribute to project restoration or surveying. Mark Dindorf expressed some interest in the prospect and agreed to discuss the possibility with Member Dufilho at a later time.

Gray's Inn: Chairman Sires noted that the agenda for the upcoming Planning Board meeting listed discussion about Gray's Inn as an agenda item. He therefore stated his interest in attending the meeting and encouraged other Members to attend as well.

Prospect Farm: Member Kimball stated his intention to send a completed draft of the general management plan to Members of the Commission before the May meeting.

Jackson Falls: Chairman Sires noted that the snow and ice over the parking area at Jackson Falls had melted away and expressed interest in doing some early planting. Member Smillie agreed that it would be advantageous to plant before the onset of the summer heat. In further discussion with Members, Member Smillie considered buying wood chips to spread over paths at the Falls. Chairman Sires suggested that Members take a walk around the Falls to inspect the area and determine further steps to take. He concluded to poll the Members of the Commission at a later time. Member Dufilho reported no progress on the development of signage, as he was waiting for an update from the Save Jackson Falls Committee for suggestions about signage.

Conservation Easements: There were no updates to this matter at time of meeting.

Wetlands: There were no updates to this matter at time of meeting.

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

Other Business: Member Byrne motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Member Dufilho seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Will Reisig