

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

April 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Conservation Commission was held on April 8, 2020, via Zoom, at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Chair Kristine Tardiff, Councilor Brent Todd, Vice-Chair Jim Owers, Members Chris Kane, Tracey Boisvert, Kathy Healy, Jeff Lewis, and Rick Chormann.

Absent: Alternate Stefan Mattlage

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner  
Lisa Fellows-Weaver, Administrative Specialist

Public: City Forester Ron Klemarczyk, Rebecca Ross

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tardiff at 7:06 p.m. at which time Ms. Tardiff read the following statement:

As Chair of the Concord NH Conservation Commission, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Commission is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, we have provided public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, and instructions are provided on the City of Concord's website at: [www.concordnh.gov/planning](http://www.concordnh.gov/planning)

**With Regard to providing public access to the meeting;**

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through visiting the following website address: <https://zoom.us/j/181542776>.

If you do not have website access, you may dial the following phone number 929-205-6099 and enter the webinar id 181 54 2776.

For those calling in who want to provide public testimony, *via* the website, you may click on the chat icon to ask, or click "raise hand" to be recognized as authorized by the Chair. For participants, dialing in on a phone, you may dial \*9 to alert the Chair that you want to testify. Please note that testimony only applies to public hearings, and public participation may not be authorized in a public meeting which is not a public hearing.

**With Regard to providing the public with a way to alert us about access problems;**

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-225-8515 or send an email to: [planning@concordnh.gov](mailto:planning@concordnh.gov).

**With Regard to adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting;**

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

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

**Reminder for the public**

If you have a question or any trouble accessing this meeting please call the planning dept. at 603-225-8515 or send an email to: [planning@concordnh.gov](mailto:planning@concordnh.gov)

For those calling in who want to provide public testimony, *via* the website, you may click on the chat icon to ask, or click "raise hand" to be recognized as authorized by the Chair. For participants, dialing in on a phone, you may dial \*9 to alert the Chair that you want to testify. Please note that testimony only applies to public hearings, and public participation may not be authorized in a public meeting which is not a public hearing.

**Reminder to Commission members**

- Please mute yourself when not speaking.
- Please raise your hand in the participants section of your Zoom screen.
  - Also, if viewing in gallery view, wave your hand in front of the camera to make sure you are heard.
- In your zoom screen, change your view in the upper right corner from speaker view to gallery view to see all panelists.

**1. Minutes**

***March 11, 2020***

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Kane, to approve the March 11, 2020, minutes, as written. The motion passed 6/0/1. Ms. Boisvert abstained as she did not attend the March meeting.

**2. Ron Klemarczyk presenting Forest Inventory Map and Management Plan for Knowlton Woods, Hot Hole Pond Road.**

Mr. Klemarczyk, at the request of the Commission, presented a Forest Inventory Map and Management Plan for the newly acquired property of Knowlton Woods on Hot Hole Pond Road, which is located on the southeast side of Hot Hole Pond Road, abutting the Oak Hill City Forest. He explained that the Commission acquired this property with the intent to make a trail connection to Hot Hole Pond Road to the Oak Hill Trail system, as well as to improve and to continue to maintain the Swope Slope vista. He stated that the only access is through Hot Hole Pond Road due to terrain. In addition, he mentioned the plan includes the newly purchased Murray Lot and noted that there is a potential for future connections as well.

Mr. Klemarczyk gave an in depth overview of the background of the property as well as what he found in the field. He noted that the property was a working farm at one time and there are many stone walls on the property. There is a damaged cellar hole on the property. He also noted a trail to the south from the cellar hole previously used for hunting purposes. It also served as the main skid trail for the last harvest by the previous owner. A wetland exists on the property which he described as an open marsh area. This area, along with intermittent streams, will be protected. There is evidence of deer habitat and he would recommend avoiding that area. Clearing would be required to reopen the Swope vista area, which has started to grow in.

Mr. Klemarczyk spoke to the need for a parking area. It was previously suggested to utilize an area owned by NH Fish & Game; however, in doing so, would require the public to walk along the narrow

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road. He is now suggesting that a parking area be added to the northwest corner of the property. He believes that this is the best area and would easily tie into the main trail; however, would require a timber harvest.

Mr. Klemarczyk described three different stands throughout the property, noting the contents, quality, and maturity of and each stand. He also provided a recommendation for a management plan for each.

Mr. Owers expressed concern with clearing to the boundaries. He noted the boundary to the west is aggressively posted for no trespassing. He suggested adding a forest buffer on the western and eastern boundaries. Mr. Klemarczyk agreed and added that the abutter to the west is currently logging their property. Mr. Owers also stated that with the proposed parking area, the property boundaries should also be avoided.

Mr. Owers stated that aesthetics are very important; any work should lean more toward aesthetics rather than to timber harvesting. Mr. Klemarczyk agreed and stated that aesthetics have always been very important with the City forests. He added that another item that is always considered for timing is the weather as that is always a factor.

Discussion ensued as to the trail placement. Mr. Owers noted the location of the intermittent streams. Mr. Klemarczyk explained that he would prefer that any trail be located nearer to the existing stone walls.

Mr. Kane asked if Mr. Klemarczyk found any trees that were especially old. Mr. Klemarczyk explained that there was nothing ancient, a few scattered large trees but no overall stand. He noted that he would not take out any excessively large or ancient trees.

The general consensus was members were comfortable with the proposed plan. Ms. Tardiff stated that the deer beds should be protected, the wetlands and intermittent stream should be avoided, and stand three should be avoided all together. Mr. Klemarczyk stated that he would leave buffer zones and would try to protect the noted places whenever possible.

A motion was made by Mr. Owers, seconded by Ms. Boisvert, to move forward with the forest management plan, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote as follows:

Ms. Tardiff – in favor  
Mr. Owers – in favor  
Mr. Kane – in favor  
Ms. Boisvert – in favor  
Ms. Healy – in favor  
Mr. Lewis – in favor  
Mr. Chormann – in favor  
Councilor Todd – in favor

Mr. Klemarczyk stated that he will provide a draft to the Commission for final acceptance at the May meeting. If approved, the timber sale could go out to bid early Fall.

**3. NHDES Items - none**

**4. Reports**

*a. Trails Subcommittee*

Mr. Lewis attended the Zoom Trails Subcommittee meeting and provided a synopsis of the

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meeting for the Commission. He mentioned that all scheduled hikes have been cancelled due to COVID-19. He explained that the trails are currently very busy. He mentioned that Ms. Fenstermacher relayed a message from the Deputy City Manager thanking the volunteers for their work and reminding them to practice social distancing when doing any maintenance work on the trails, and to always put their safety first. It was advised that trash on the trails not be picked up during this time to avoid potential contamination.

A discussion was held regarding parking at the trail heads. There have been some issues with overflow parking at Swope Park, and one report of access being compromised for emergency vehicles on Long Pond Road. Temporary No Parking Signs have been added on the east side of the road. Discussions will continue with management to address the parking concerns as more people utilize trails.

Mr. Lewis stated that the Trails Subcommittee has temporarily postponed their project work days for cleanup, however; they do hope to reschedule the dates for this year. Members may decide to do maintenance on their own.

Mr. Owers mentioned the Knowlton Woods Trail. He stated that he and Matt Bowser from NEMBA do hope to get out and lay out this trail soon.

Ms. Fenstermacher provided additional information on the Long Pond Road parking issues. A complaint was received relative to traffic and parking. Councilor Champlin worked with staff to enact an emergency no parking zone on the east side of the road. At this time they are looking for a long term solution to address the overflow. Councilor Todd stated that this matter will get addressed by the parking committee. He further stated that he will discuss any concerns regarding overflow parking at other trails with the parking committee.

*b. Forestry*

The Forester's report was circulated. No discussion was held.

*c. Concord Tree Committee*

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the Tree Committee's March 20 meeting was cancelled. She stated that she will be working to compile the inventory data. She added that she is not sure if there will be an upcoming meeting. The Arbor Day event and tree maintenance class have been cancelled. She noted that the tree planting event maybe occur in the fall.

*d. Local River Advisory Committees*

Mr. Chormann stated that the meeting was cancelled.

**5. City Open Space**

- a. Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she will be reaching out to wetland scientist Dan Geiger to follow up on the wetland violations at Spears Park and the need to identify the vernal pools at country Hill Estates. NHDES requested the vernal pool information as a follow up for the ARM Grant.

**6. City Council/Planning Board**

Councilor Todd reminded members of the upcoming April 13 public hearing for the properties on Currier Road for \$35,000 and District 5 Road for \$12,000. Mr. Owers is planning to attend.

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**7. Follow-up/On-going Items:**

a. ***Crosby & Leadbeater*** – Mr. Lewis stated that the Commission had planned to schedule a site walk prior to the April meeting. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, directions and a map have been added to this agenda. Members will make their own efforts to visit the property individually.

b. ***Education Outreach – ConcordTV***

This item is on hold as ConcordTV is otherwise engaged with COVID-19 projects/updates.

c. ***Update to Bylaws***

This item was continued.

d. ***Easement Enforcement Policy***

Mr. Kane stated that he will provide examples of policies for the next meeting.

e. ***Conservation Easement Standard Templates***

This item was continued.

**8. Other Business**

a. ***Trails Master Plan***

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that Craig Tufts continues to working on the Trails Master Plan.

b. ***Survey***

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the survey is still open with 475 responses and will be closed soon.

c. ***Student Conservation Association – Merrimack River Invasives Removal Project***

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she was contacted by the Student Conservation Association, (SCA) to see if the Commission would be interested in a summer crew to do some trail buildings. She indicated that the City did not have any big projects at this time; however, inquired if there would be an option to assist with the removal of invasive species. SCA would be able to assist the City with this and offered a crew of 10 people with a project manager for \$10,000. She explained that SCA has been successful on the seacoast in collaboration with the local conservation district. Funding was also available and obtained through the local conservation district. Ms. Fenstermacher suggested reaching out to the Merrimack County Conservation District (MCCD) to see if this is something they would partner with the Commission for the removal of invasives along the Merrimack River. She added that she will reach out to the MCCD to see if we can do anything within this year and if there is funding available.

Mr. Kane stated that there is a huge need for this type of work. Ms. Healy asked if there was a targeted area. Ms. Fenstermacher suggested the shoreline of Terrill Park shoreline that is not part of the park project and areas of Healy Park as well.

d. ***Wild Chervil - Invasive Species***

<https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=5114>)

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the Wild Chervil has been spotted in Concord. It has been a huge issue in Vermont. The State of NH has requested that any sightings be reported; it is easy to remove but spreads quickly.

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*e. Pan Am – Negotiations*

Mr. Kane asked for a status update for Pan Am. Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the negotiations with Pan Am have been delayed

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Lewis made a motion, second by Mr. Kane, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Fellows-Weaver  
Administrative Specialist