

**Town of Bedford  
Conservation Commission Minutes  
April 13, 2021**

A meeting of the Bedford Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 via the Zoom meeting platform.

Present: Maggie Wachs, Chair, Stephanie Jones, Dave Chiappetta, Bob MacPherson, William Carter, Patricia Grogan, Beth Evarts, Rebecca Hebert, (Planning Director) and Karin Elmer, (Planner I).

Absent: Stephen Clough and Denise Ricciardi (Town Council Alternate).

**7:00 PM Call to Order**

Ms. Wachs called the Bedford Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Members of the Commission introduced themselves via roll call and all indicated they were alone in the room during this online meeting. Ms. Wachs appointed Mr. Chiappetta to vote this evening.

Ms. Wachs welcomed everyone to the Bedford Conservation Commission meeting and appointed David Chiappetta to be a voting member tonight. Ms. Wachs read the mission statement:

The mission of the Bedford, New Hampshire Conservation Commission is to protect, preserve and conserve the town's natural resources and open space land for the common good. This includes stewardship and management of conservation land, protecting wetlands and vernal pools, and the planning and acquisition of land for conservation purposes. The Commission works with landowners to administer State and town wetlands regulations, and advises other town boards, such as the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment on environmental impacts and alternative considerations regarding development projects. The Conservation Commission promotes conservation activities and communicates with the citizens of Bedford on important environmental issues.

Our Motto – Keeping Bedford Beautiful

**Minutes:**

**MOTION by Mr. Carter to approve the minutes of March 23, 2021 as presented. Second by Ms. Jones. Roll call vote:**

Ms. Jones Yes.

Mr. Carter: Yes.

Mr. Chiappetta: Yes.

Ms. Wachs: Yes.

Mr. MacPherson: yes

Ms. Grogan: Yes

Ms. Evarts: Yes

**ALL IN FAVOR. Minutes approved.**

**New Business:**

**Nancy Demers** – Review a permit to fill approximately 2,457 sq. ft. of wetland for the construction of a shared driveway for a new 3 lot subdivision at 501 Rt. 101, Lot 30-10.

Jeff Kevan and Chris Danforth of TF Moran presented. They are proposing a shared driveway to serve three homes, using the existing curb cut. There will be one culvert under the driveway. The plan indicates an 18” pipe but we are looking into perhaps using a 24” pipe and burying the bottom 6” to give a natural bottom for aquatic crossings. There are 9 and 10 foot slopes included in the fill area. They will be designed with 3:1 slopes.

Mr. Carter would prefer the 24 inch culver option. Ms. Wachs asked about the type of wetland. Mr. Kevan stated it is a channel that conveys stormwater from a culvert under Rt 101 and then drains into a larger wetland on the north side of the lots. Ms. Evarts asked if there is a way to not have the homeowners push snow towards the wetland. Mr. Elmer stated since this is a residential lot it would be very difficult to enforce.

Ms. Hebert stated that it appears this will trigger the towns Stormwater permitting regulations. Mr. Kevan stated that the driveway will be crowned with water shedding on both sides. There is a relatively small drainage area. Other than the paved driveway, everything will be loamed and seeded. It will have a minimal effect on the wetland. There will be no effect on endangered species.

There was no public input.

**Motion by Mr. Carter to recommend approval of the dredge and fill permit for the Demers subdivision as presented and per our deliberations. Second by Ms. Jones. Roll call vote:**

Maggie Wachs - yes  
Stephanie Jones - yes  
Dave Chiappetta - yes  
Bob MacPherson - yes  
William Carter - yes  
Patricia Grogan – yes

**Motion passed.**

**Bedford High School Ecological Program** – Presentation of the program and discussion of possible Conservation Commission support.

Daniel King of Bedford High School explained to the commission about an environmental teaching project he is undertaking. He received some grant money to start a pilot program to install 13 game cameras on conservation lands to monitor different species in the area.

Ms. Evarts stated that the Commission has been trying for years to work together with the schools but the logistics never seemed to work. It finally seems to be happening. Mr. King has also worked with the

Piscataquog Land Conservancy and has been in touch with them as well on this project. Mr. King stated that he has been taking professional development classes through UNH about game cameras. This project will work well with social distancing. It is his hope that this pilot program will be a success and the goal would be to have between 60 and 70 cameras. Mr. King would like to come back to the Commission in 6 months and give an update on the project. At that time I will know more about what help I may need from the Commission.

Ms. Hebert stated we will need to put signs up on the trailheads of any properties with cameras to let the public know what is happening. Ms. Jones has an extensive background in environmental teaching and would be happy to volunteer. Mr. MacPherson, Ms. Wachs and others also said they would be happy to volunteer. Ms. Evarts asked Mr. King to have some of the kids come to the next meeting so we can hear about their experiences.

The Commission thanked Mr. King and wished him the best of luck.

### **Old Business:**

**Update on town owned land off of Chubbuck Road.** Mr. Carter stated that it has only been a couple of weeks since the last discussion and has nothing to report yet this evening.

### **Other Business:**

Ms. Wachs stated that she attended a Lunch & Learn virtual session put on by the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. The topic was about invasive species. It was very well done. The speakers were great and she highly recommends attending.

Ms. Elmer state there are no updates for the Commission since their last meeting.

Mr. Carter reminded everyone about the CUB (Clean Up Bedford) cleanup this weekend. A lot people and organizations have signed up and it should be a great day.

### **Non-Public Session:**

**Mr. Carter moved to enter a non-public session at 8:08 pm per RSA 91-A:3, II(d) for consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which we've discussed in public would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. Seconded by Ms. Jones. Roll call vote:**

Maggie Wachs: Aye  
Bill Carter: Aye  
Stephanie Jones: Aye  
Bob McPherson: Aye  
Patricia Grogan: Aye  
Dave Chiappetta: yes  
Beth Evarts: Aye

**The Commission came back into public session at 8:40 pm.**

**Motion by Mr. Carter to seal the non-public minutes. Second by Ms. Jones. Roll call vote:**

Maggie Wachs: Aye  
Bill Carter: Aye  
Stephanie Jones: Aye  
Bob McPherson: Aye  
Patricia Grogan: Aye  
Dave Chiappetta: Aye  
Beth Evarts: Aye

All in Favor.

**Motion by Mr. Carter to adjourn at 8:41 pm. Second by Mr. McPherson. Roll call vote:**

Maggie Wachs: Aye  
Bill Carter: Aye  
Stephanie Jones: Aye  
Bob McPherson: Aye  
Patricia Grogan: Aye  
Dave Chiappetta: Aye  
Beth Evarts: Aye

**Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.**