

Town of Bedford
August 24, 2021
Conservation Commission Minutes

A meeting of the Bedford Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, August 24, in the Town Meeting Room at BCTV, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford.

7:00 PM Call to Order

Present: Maggie Wachs (Chair) opened the meeting and introduced members present: Dave Chiappetta (member), Julie Donovan (member), Patricia Grogan (member), Steve Clough (Planning Board Representative), Bill Carter (Vice Chairman, Town Council member), Stephanie Jones (member), Kathleen Ports (Associate Planner), Becky Hebert (Planning Director).

Absent: Beth Evarts (alternate member), Denise Ricciardi (Town Council alternate member)

Chair Wachs requested Ms. Ports review the agenda items:

- Approval of minutes.
- No Dredge and Fill Applications to Review
- New business – a public hearing and request for a variance for the Martins
- Updates on old business related to Chubbuck Road and the Bedford High School
- Other business:
 - No updates on previous permits or applications
 - A Request for some mowing at Pulpit Rock
 - A Bio Blitz update
 - Community Cohort training update
 - October workshop update
 - A Request from an Eagle Scout
 - General Announcements

Chair 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 alternate considerations regarding development projects. The Conservation Commission promotes conservation activities and communicates with the citizens of Bedford on important environmental issues.

Our motto is: Keeping Bedford Beautiful

Approval of Minutes. Chair Wachs asks if there is a quorum for all the minutes approvals. Ms. Hebert suggests Chair Wachs takes them individually so folks can abstain if they were not present for the meetings.

MOTION: Mr. Carter motions to approve the April 13 minutes. Mr. Chiappetta seconds the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Minutes approved.

Ms. Donovan remarks her name and Ms. Grogan's names got really muddled up in the June minutes. Ms. Hebert suggests it is noted those minutes will be corrected and asked if they are comfortable approving them now. Ms. Donovan is comfortable with that.

MOTION: Ms. Donovan motions to approve the June 22, 2021 minutes pending corrections of Julie and Pat's names. Ms. Grogan seconds the motion. Ms. Jones, Mr. Chiappetta, and Mr. Carter abstained. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Minutes approved.

MOTION: Mr. Carter motions to approve the July 27, 2021 minutes. Ms. Jones seconds the motion. Chair Wachs and Ms. Grogan abstained. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Minutes approved.

MOTION: Ms. Jones motions to approve the August 11, 2021 site walk minutes. Mr. Carter seconds the motion. Mr. Chiappetta abstained. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Minutes approved.

APPROVAL OF Non-Public Meeting Minutes

Chair Wachs questions whether the minutes need to be unsealed before approval. Ms. Hebert answers I think you can just approve them. There's no reason to unseal them at this point in time.

MOTION: Mr. Carter motions to approve the April 13, 2021 non-public minutes. Ms. Jones seconds the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Minutes approved.

MOTION: Ms. Jones motions to approve the May 25, 2021 non-public minutes. Mr. Carter seconds the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Minutes approved.

MOTION: Ms. Donovan motions to approve the June 22, 2021 non-public minutes. Ms. Grogan seconds the motion. Ms. Jones, Mr. Chiappetta, and Mr. Carter abstained. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Minutes approved.

MOTION: Mr. Carter motions to approve the July 27, 2021 non-public minutes. Ms. Jones seconds the motion. Ms. Wachs and Ms. Grogan abstained. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Minutes approved.

New Business

Chair Wachs said we have a public hearing next. I think that's right. Let me just open this up. Mr. Carter said before you open the public hearing, you might want to explain what the meeting's going to be for or have. Chair Wachs said yes. Good call. Yes. So, we do have an agenda item for a public hearing. Should I read the in accordance with the RSA part? Ms. Hebert said yes.

Chair Wachs read: In accordance with RSA 36-A, the Bedford Conservation Commission will hear comments on the expenditure of up to \$956,000 from the Conservation Fund for the purchase of approximately 43 acres of undeveloped land owned by Marcia A. Marston Revocable Trust, located off Wallace Road, Bedford, Tax Map 3, Lots 5 and 4, and the conveyance of a conservation easement to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy. The Commission will also authorize the use of the Conservation Fund for the completion of investigations and studies associated with the land purchase including but not limited to survey, stewardship fees, environmental reports, and title review.

Ms. Hebert said I'll give a quick overview on this. The Town of Bedford and the Piscataquog Land Conservancy have entered into agreements for the conservation and protection of approximately 126

acres located in both Bedford and Goffstown. The agreement includes the Town of Bedford purchasing approximately 43 acres. This is outlined in green on the map in front of your screens and up on the overhead projector. This includes Lots 3-5 and 3-4. Lot 3-5 is the larger parcel and 3-4 is the smaller parcel. It looks like a small square on the map. There is a freestanding garage on this parcel. Part of the agreement includes the current owner, the Marcia Marston Revocable Trust, maintaining use of this small freestanding garage for up to ten years, to be used as storage. The Marcia Marston Revocable Trust will be responsible for all taxes, maintenance and liability associated with the use of the garage. The agreement also includes the conveyance of a right of first offer to the Town for the 72 acres outlined in blue on the map. This is the land immediately across the street. The property is located on Wallace Road near the Bedford/Goffstown town line. The Marcia Marston Revocable Trust has entered into a separate agreement with the Piscataquog Land Conservancy for the donation of an additional parcel located in Goffstown and two parcels located in Bedford. So, it's about 33 acres of additional land in Bedford and another 50 acres of land just across the border in Goffstown. The property includes a long stretch of undeveloped frontage along Wallace Road. This is fast-developing area in Bedford for residential development. The open space would be contiguous with open space associated with a cluster subdivision just to the south in Bedford and another cluster subdivision located in Goffstown. The land is in close proximity to other open space lands in Bedford. The property is notable for its role in Bedford's history. Marcia Marston is a direct descendant of Major John Dunlap, along with his son, Robert Dunlap, who were both renowned furniture builders and cabinet makers. The homestead was founded by the Dunlaps in 1777, according to Bedford's history. The land has been in their family ever since. For funding for this transaction, the 43 acres of land will be purchased for a price of \$1,000,000, which is approximately \$23,000 per acre. PLC (The Piscataquog Land Conservancy) has a fund dedicated for the protection of land in Bedford and will be donating \$44,000 toward the purchase price from this dedicated fund. Tonight, the Conservation Commission would need to authorize the use of \$956,000 from the conservation fund for the purchase of the property. The conservation fund is a dedicated fund specifically for land protection and conservation purposes. This fund received money annually from the Use Change Penalty Tax, when land that's place in current use is removed from current use. The money is allowed to accrue, and as of August 1, this fund had balance of \$1,171,000. But the Tax Assessor is estimating approximately \$250,000 will be collected in current use penalty tax monies through the remainder of this year. So, there will be some additional funds coming into the account, which is the account that you use for land management projects and other conservation initiatives in addition to land protection. The agreement also includes the conveyance of a conservation easement to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy for the purchase of the 43 acres and the right of first offer also includes a requirement that a conservation easement be conveyed to the PLC. So, the land trust will be working collectively with the Town to steward the land and ensure that it's maintained as open space. There is a one-time fee that the Town would need to pay to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy for this long-term stewardship responsibility. This has been estimated at \$24,000. Additional fees that the Commission would need to take on associated with this project would include survey work, title review, environmental reports and the exact cost of these reports and studies won't be known until the land purchase is authorized, but we're estimating that that work would not be more than about \$50,000. Tonight, the Commission would need to hear public comments related to the expenditure of these funds from the Conservation Trust, and to take a formal vote to approve the use of these funds.

Chair Wachs said thank you Becky. Do we have any public comment? Mr. Carter said you need to open the public session first. Chair Wachs agreed.

Chair Wachs said we'll now open the public hearing. That's all I have to say? It's my first time everybody. Ms. Hebert said that's good. And you invite anyone from the public to speak on this. Chair

Wachs said yes. So, if anyone here would like to speak on the topic... We did receive some letters from Bedford residents, and I just want to acknowledge who we received them from. Do I need to ask for questions here before I get to that? Ms. Hebert said you can note who you received public comment from. Then, seeing there's no one from the public who wishes to speak on this, you can close the public hearing. Chair Wachs said okay. Should I do that first? Okay, so public hearing is now closed. I just wanted to acknowledge that we received letters from Rita Carol, Jeannine Procopis, Richard and Susan Moore, and John Monson, all in favor of the purchase of this piece of land. I just also wanted to say on the record that we very much appreciate Marcia Marston and her generous gift in working with the Town of Bedford in ensuring that we can have this green space going forward. Mr. Carter said I would definitely like to thank the Planning Department for all the work they did behind the scenes to keep this project going and, a lot of long work on Becky and her staff, but it has paid itself off. So, thank you very much for... Chair Wachs added yes. Thank you very much. Mr. Carter added and Rick Sawyer too. Rick was doing a lot of work, a lot of it behind the scenes because, obviously, with this you wanted to keep it as quiet as possible and I thank everyone who knew about this and kept it quiet. It was great to be able to get this done. Chair Wachs said I agree.

MOTION: Mr. Carter motioned in accordance with RSA 36-A, I move to approve the expenditure of up to \$956,000 from the Conservation Fund for the purchase of approximately 43 acres of land owned by Marcia A. Marston Revocable Trust, located off Wallace Road, Bedford, Tax Map 3, Lots 5 and 4, and the conveyance of a conservation easement on the property to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy and to additionally authorize the use of the Conservation Fund for the completion of investigations and studies associated with the land purchase including but not limited to survey, stewardship fees, environmental reports, and title review. Ms. Jones duly seconded the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Motion carries.

Ms. Hebert said this will now go to the Town Council for their approval and authorization at a public meeting on September 8th.

Chair Wachs said next on our agenda is the Martin property. Richard and Linda Martin. If you'd like to just come up, introduce yourselves, and then let us know what you'd like us to take a look at. Just for the official record, it's to review a variance request to build a detached, two-car garage, 24 by 28 feet within the 50-foot wetland setback at 177 County Road, Lot 2284.

Richard and Linda Martin testimony: Hi, we're Rick and Linda Martin from 177 County Road and we're here to answer questions in regard to the variance that we're requesting to build a garage on our property that we've had now for two years, I guess. Ms. Martin said so, the staff report does outline the background of the property, the size of the property and the fact that in 2018, the previous homeowner had received a variance to build an addition. They were a much younger family than we are. Certainly, as I tried to make clear in our letter requesting--our cover letter—demographics are different for Rick and myself. Right now, the home has been, was constructed in 1960. I know that there, we do know that there have been considerable updates to the home itself as well as to the yard. Bedford is a small town, and it just so happens that that home was previously owned by a family member of one of our daughter's best friends. So, when she came to visit, she said, oh, I've been here. She had been there as a child, so that was interesting. In any case, we met last fall with a builder to start the process and really asked a number of questions looking at what was previously approved by this Board. That addition that the previous owners wanted to build would have been connected to the home, because it would have been part of the home. Our request is for detached garage, specifically after working and asking a number of questions to that builder, it was going to require far too much engineering and reengineering

of that corner of the house, which would have made it extremely cost-prohibitive working within the budget we have. So, we went to Plan B, and that, certainly whether the garage was to be attached to the home or detached, we still would have needed to be in front of this Board to request that variance because there really is no other way to locate what we want to do on the property without infringing on that buffer zone. Mr. Martin added yes that side of the house is where the driveway is. There's an old septic that sits directly in front of the driveway in the backyard, so we can really go back further that way. This particular side lawn is really the only location we can put a garage. The other side of the house has the new septic and there's a fence and all kinds of things over there, so this is just adjacent to the current driveway. Ms. Martin said and being that this Conservation Board and what your mission is is to ensure the preservation of wetlands, we realize that there is a very small creek that goes through our property. There is a manmade pond, and that's indicated on the map. Certainly, it's a little bit wetter this summer, given the fact that we had a lot more rain. But last summer, there was hardly anything out there. The garage itself, as you see on the map, would be located next to the existing driveway with about a three-foot space between the end of the driveway and the start of the front garage wall. We would certainly be working with a quality builder to make sure that all drainage and those kinds of issues would be ensured and up to snuff. I'm not sure if there's anything else. Certainly, the reason for the garage, I guess, you know, it is indicated in our cover letter, but mostly for the protection of our vehicles, some storage as well, but safety and security and the fact that we, well my husband, I can't say we, I get out there occasionally, but he takes care of all the snow removal in the winter time and we would like to just make sure that our vehicles are a little more protected. So, we're happy to answer any questions if I didn't cover anything.

Ms. Grogan requests the map be displayed. Mr. Carter said so I have a couple questions. Would it be possible to turn it down to a 24 by 24 to get it further away from, to make it 32 feet? What was the purpose of 3 feet off the driveway? Mr. Martin answered to be able to come in the driveway and easily be able to turn into the garage. Ms. Martin added yah, that was suggested by the builder because of the angle. Mr. Carter said obviously, you're 35 feet away from the edge of the road because that's, you would need another variance to be close to the road. Martins said yes. Mr. Carter asked would it be considered if you would turn that down to a 24 by 24 garage versus a 24 by 28 being that most of that garage is in the setback. I'm just trying to get it further away. Yes, we do have a wet season this year and everybody's experienced a lot more water than they have probably, I could say, since 2017 is probably the last time we've had a season this wet. So, would it be something that you would consider turning it down to a 24 by 24 standard 24 by 24 garage?

Mr. Martin said it can be considered. It was recommended to go larger because of the opportunity to, it's a cape home, so right now our basement is our storage area and it's pretty full. So, I was looking to ... Mr. Carter said did my drive by. It's nice to park across the street cuz the school is right there so. Mr. Martin answered that's why it was recommended that we go a little bit bigger so we could, you know, all that extra stuff, the snowblowers and wheelbarrows and all that kind of stuff could be. Mr. Carter asked are you planning to use gutters or just let the water run off the roof? Ms. Martin said no, we're going to use gutters. Mr. Carter asked will they be able to drain the water instead of just going into the grass? Would you do a little bit of ditching to treat the water before it heads into the. Ms. Martin answered sure, and it was recommended that we use a perimeter of crushed stone around the base of the garage as well. Mr. Carter said thank you.

Mr. Clough asked do you know--Madam Chair could I? Chair Wachs answered oh yes, absolutely, please. More questions, comments. Mr. Clough asked so, is there any history on the manmade pond because, in most states, a manmade pond is not considered as valued as a natural pond, and my background is ecological toxicology and hazard assessment. When I used to assess the value of

wetlands, if there was a man-made pond, it's a man-made wetland. It wasn't valued as great. I was wondering if you knew any history of how that, did somebody dig it for gravel or? Ms. Martin answered you know, that's a really good question Mr. Clough, and I wish I knew a little more about the history of that, and frankly, I never thought to ask the previous owners when we were in the process of purchasing the home. I do recall the wife saying they had plans of putting a fountain in there, but right now, I mean, you know, we don't have any plans of doing that. Right now, boy, I'd like to do something about the mosquitos, but, I mean, other than, you know, drawing mosquitos, I mean it is pretty. We've done our best, we did replace fencing around it, mostly for protection. We have a young granddaughter that spends considerable amount of time on our property and, you know, just even with anybody who might be passing through, we didn't want to take it, you know, take any ... we wanted to make sure that we were taking the precautions. Mr. Cough asked, so there's a chain link fence, or a wooden fence? Ms. Martin said no, we put a nice black, it's a wrought iron fence around the ... Mr. Martin clarified it's around the long side of the pond. It doesn't go all the way around it. Ms. Martin continued well because the back side is all woods. Mr. Martin added woods and swamp. Mr. Cough asked so the wrought iron fence is something you buy at Lowe's, and it goes around, like partially around the pond? Mr. and Mrs. Martin both said yes. Mr. Clough said okay. I see. I guess I'm of the opinion that, you know, I wouldn't want you to change the dimension of the garage. You said that there's a, on the rear side, on the end of the driveway there's an old septic? Mr. Martin answered in the backyard, yah. Are you talking about the old septic or the new septic? Mr. Cough said old. Mr. Martin answered the old one is in the backyard. Mr. Clough asked, so could you put the garage at the end of the driveway? Ms. Martin answered it really would not change, if anything it would be closer, it would make it closer to the water. If you look at the way our property is situated, it's a triangle shape. It's not a square or a rectangle. So, given that point is in the backyard, it doesn't allow for as much flexibility in placement. We did, we've actually had a few different builders out, mostly to ask questions, hear what they would have, you know, recommendations that they would make. They all said the same thing. You're really limited in where you can place this. Mr. Clough said okay I guess I'm of the opinion that, you know, whether you're saving three or four feet, you know, I wouldn't want to put a hardship on you with the size of the garage. But I guess I would defer to Bill that when you do build a garage, that the drainage be kind-of exceptional and that maybe it drained toward the manmade wetland because that's the purpose of wetlands is to, like a French drain or something, you know what I mean? Because that's the purpose of wetlands is to act as a storage and a buffer. Mr. Martin asked so we should drain towards the pond? Mr. Clough said yes, and it functions as storage and a buffer during times of intense storms. Mr. Carter added usually I suggest a trench which is about two feet wide by three feet deep. It's mostly stone with pipe, and that will head towards the manmade... because what you're doing is the roof is taking all that water that would be being soaked up by that garage not being there and the garage and your driveway now is going to add extra flow. I mean we've had some pretty heavy rainstorms, and I'm sure even your property does see a little bit more flooding than usual with some of these unusual downpours we've had. The great time to do it is when you're doing your sitework because the contractor... I would assume you're putting a pad in, not a full foundation. Mrs. Martin said that's correct.

Mr. Carter said I was going to say that I went through the same thing you just did here, and I got down to a certain amount of footage and I might as well have built a swimming pool versus a garage. When you're doing all that work, it's just to have a trench, again, you can have the gutters, it will come right down into that trench and that will treat and keep that water from causing any more damage. I mean I know it's a manmade pond, but we still have to make sure that we protect that. That's fine. Mr. Clough added yah, on my house actually, depending on how the backyard is graded, it may be a little bit more money, but it's worth it in the long run because every homeowner's most important, at least from my point of view, when it comes to water, is getting it away from your house. So, if you had the grade such

that the pipe that Bill was talking about--it could be a French drain too--is going away, down, toward the wetland, then everything is copasetic, you know what I mean? Ms. Grogan asked okay, I just want to understand, did you say you weren't sure if it was a manmade wetland? Mr. Clough said, it says on the map its manmade. Ms. Martin said the pond, itself, was manmade, but we just can't speak to the question that was asked earlier about, you know, why and who, we don't know any of the history of that. Ms. Grogan said I just wanted to know. Mr. Clough said actually, I looked up on a wetland map and it's not even on wetland map. I don't know what the Bedford maps look like, but it doesn't even show up, so clearly, it's manmade. Mr. Carter said but the wetlands are not manmade. The pond is manmade, but the wetlands are manmade. (Everyone agrees.) Mr. Carter said we have to acknowledge that. Basically, I would put the trench where you have the 28.3 feet. The trench would head towards that wetland. I'd rather it goes to the wetland first than go directly into the pond. The closest point of that garage, which is 28.3 feet, your trench should be heading towards that point right there. The line's already there for you. You just have to get it to the tree line. You don't have to get all the way to the wetlands. Just, you show your tree line there, which is probably 15 feet away from the edge of the garage. So, just make sure your trench is running that way, toward the tree line. Once it gets into the tree line, you'll be fine. Especially when they're doing excavating, that will be the perfect time to get that done. And you'll be happy with that afterwards because, again, the water will be going away from your house.

Now you said the old septic tank is in the back. That wasn't closed off before you put the new ... it was probably done before you bought? Mr. Martin said it was, yah. They had a new septic put in before we bought the property. Mr. Carter said interesting. Hopefully, it's closed off and capped. Ms. Martin said well we were assured at the closing that it was, yes. Mr. Carter said that's fine. Thank you. Chair Wachs said any comments or questions? Mr. Carter make a motion? Chair Wachs answered sure.

MOTION: Mr. Carter motioned that we recommend approval of the request of Richard and Linda Martin to build a detached, two-car garage, 24 by 28, within the 50-foot setback at 177 County Road, Lot 22-84 and just a sidenote one of the stipulations is to trench as suggested by the Conservation Commission. Ms. Donovan duly seconded the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Motion carries.

Ms. Martin said thank you very much. Mr. Carter said hopefully the pricing of lumber has come down since you started doing this. Ms. Martin said yes, true. Ms. Martin said thank you very much. We love where we are so far. Mr. Carter said the kids are back next week. Ms. Martin said well, we don't, I mean, our kids have kids, but I do tutoring and I'm right across the street from the school, so yah, I've got kiddos that are really excited about going back.

Old Business – Chubbuck Road Property

Chair Wachs said we have an update on the Chubbuck Road property. Mr. Carter said I'll give a quick update. We are starting to work on that. Kathleen and I have had some conversations. As I stated at the last meeting, I really wanted to wait for Becky to have her full staff on board. We'll continue to look at this over the next six months, putting something together concerning that property. As far as I know right now, Becky and her staff are just getting everybody in place. We just need a little bit more time, then we'll start working on that to make sure that that will be a project that we work on towards the fall and into 2022. Chair Wachs said sounds good. We also have an update on the Bedford High School Ecological Program.

Bedford High School Ecological Program

Ms. Ports said I spoke with Daniel King. He's the High School teacher who is coordinating the Wildlife Camera Project. It's part of their biology curriculum. He's coordinating it with the other biology teachers, and it's going to be part of their spring curriculum. They were just getting together and sort-of outlining the lesson plan. I expect that they'll come back with an update for us in the spring. Dan also teaches an environmental, like a general environmental ed class, and that has a more flexible curriculum. In addition to projects they do within the class, the students also have to do their own projects. I just reiterated to him that the Board would be happy to support their efforts. We might have some ideas to share. They'd be welcomed to use the town-owned lands. I mentioned the September Bio Blitz. He was going to be talking to the school to find out whether they could use the iNaturalist app on their school devices. Although I suppose the kids could probably do that as well, but anyway that's just a conversation that we will revisit in a few more months and as the school year gets underway. Chair Wachs said that's great.

Mr. Carter said this is something that's coming up. The fall club Cub Road Cleanup event will be October 16th and the new flyer coming out here. With the success of our April Cleanup Day, which we had hundreds of students and residents and businesses out there doing it, organizations. We're planning to do it again. So, it would be October 16th from 9 to 3. More information will be coming out as we move along and try to get through this Special Election first before we start throwing anything on BCTV and stuff like that. Also, I'm currently working to sponsor a road program. I do have an organization that is looking to sponsor Wallace Road from the Goffstown line to the Merrimack line. Well, it's a main road. It's the main non-state-owned road that we have. If anyone drives down Wallace Road and goes into Bedford, the first thing you'll see, there's a sign that says Keep Merrimack Clean. They're throughout the area there and there's some over in Goffstown, too, so the organization I'm working with said hey, we're putting up some signs. I've got a little rendering of what the sign will be. A little cub being the basic part of this whole thing. It's a simple... I will be going in front of the Town Council in September for them to review this to get their a-okay on it. Again, October 16th—it's going to be a great time. It's going to be right after Columbus Day. It will give us an opportunity to clean this town. It's great. Ever since we started doing this, I've seen people out there cleaning on the roadside. It's a great movement, so it's just taking it to that next step. October 16th, hopefully. Mr. Chiappetta said you had bags last time. Mr. Carter said they're still... bags will be available. The locations will be the same--the Police Department, Joppa Hill, the Farm at Joppa Hill. You can always get blue bags at the Transfer Station. They are always available up there, so if you go to the Transfer Station, ask them for the blue roadside bags. There will be bags available for the people, they'll be able to pick up in advance of this event. Mr. Chiappetta asked then they just leave them on the road on the side? Mr. Carter said that's correct. DPW has committed to that day and the week after is driving around town and picking up these blue bags. They picked up over 2,500 pounds of roadside trash in April. Hopefully we won't find that much, but it's just ... unfortunately Wallace Road is a road that leads right to our Transfer Station, and it seems to be, I know you live on Beals, also Beals is a way of people coming in from other communities into our community. Unfortunately, we do have that so. I know I see people out there doing their due diligence to try to pick the trash up. If you do that, and you have one on the roadside, just call DPW and they will gladly come and pick up those bags. I know my wife and I go out there every month and you tell them where the bags are, and they're gone the next day. Chair Wachs said that's great. Mr. Chiappetta asked are you going to be doing a digital flyer for this? I'd love to make sure, you know, I'm a part of like Bringing Bedford Together and a number of those Facebook groups, and I'd love to just get that out there. I'm happy to do that—soccer teams, my son is starting with... they're always looking to do these types of things and it would be great to just put it out there. Mr. Carter said this is fresh off the press today. I finally had some time to sit in front of the computer and do some creativity on it. I will start getting this out. With the summertime, sometimes you get out too early and the information gets lost because

there's other things going on. As I said, with the Special Election on September 7th, once we get done with that, the docket opens up a whole lot more to be with a public service announcement getting out there to all the organizations that were out there in April also. We learned a lot from our first time doing this. Now we'll take those key learnings and be able to make this event even larger. Ms. Donovan said if you could send me an email copy of it, I'll share it with the Bedford Women's Club. Our first meeting in person is coming up the end of September, so if you give it to me before the 24th, I can share it with the whole group. Mr. Carter said we will start getting that out, and make sure that this event is even better than the one in April. Ms. Wachs said it's a great idea. Mr. Carter said thank you. Ms. Wachs said that covers old business. We do have a request for easement mowing at Pulpit Rock. Some residents requested that.

Request for Easement Mowing at Pulpit Rock

Ms. Ports said I just wanted to pull up a quick map. I was out at Pulpit Rock last week with Dave Butler who's a volunteer at Piscataquog Land Conservancy. We ran into the Bermans who live at this red parcel right here. They reported that in 2020, this easement here had been mowed and that the mowing had ceased this year. They appreciated accessing the property that way because, obviously, it's right off their yard. The concern with not mowing is just the ticks. It's safer for it to be mowed. We could potentially ask the DPW if that is something that could be added to their mowing contract? Mr. Carter asked do we know who mowed it before? Ms. Ports said I believe it was a volunteer. I think, maybe, the concern was that if it's not kept up and people get to be using it, that it is the concern about ticks. The Bermans also suggested that they might be interested in doing the mowing, but I don't know if that's permissible. Would the first step, Becky, be talking to Department of Public Works? Ms. Hebert answered I think the first step would be to ask Department of Public Works if they could include it in their mowing contract for next year. Ms. Ports said I can do that and report back next month. Ms. Wachs asked how often do they, like rounds when they mow, is it twice a year? How often--do we know? Ms. Hebert answered I think it depends on the area. I think this would probably need to be mowed, I would guess monthly. Ms. Wachs said DPW is the group that keeps the sides of most roads in Bedford cleaned up and I was just thinking, depending on the time of year, it can get really weedy. If this is something that they're using quite often, it might need to be some combination of DPW being able to go in there with the big mower a couple times a year, once a month or whatever and then also, some shared mowing happening just to keep it down to a level that ticks wouldn't. Mr. Carter asked do we have an address of where that is? Ms. Ports said the Conservation easement itself? Mr. Carter said no that thin access area which, I believe, anyone would use. Ms. Ports said this is Pulpit Road here. This is Indian Rock Road here. Mr. Carter said okay. Ms. Ports said sorry. I should have pointed that out. Ms. Hebert said DPW does mow the Heritage Trail. They mow Benedictine Park. They mow the open space at Greenfield Farms. So, they have some of these other miscellaneous areas. This is smaller than those properties, but I think we could ask for their recommendation and bring it back to you all to review. Ms. Wachs said yah, in general it would be good to know if its permissible for people who want to volunteer? Mr. Chiappetta said I think it's great for people to share if they're willing to help. I think we need as a town to have the responsibility that if that goes away, we would maintain that, right, from a Department of Public Works perspective. I just would like as we're researching it, for that to be sort-of shared. These people may be willing to sort-of help out and keep it in the in-betweens, but you know. Ms. Wachs said that's exactly it. The in-betweens like, you know, let's say Department of Public Works can't get their too often and it gets pretty high, and they want to take their kids for a walk, you know. It would be nice to know if they had the option to do it themselves if they wanted to. Mr. Carter added it has been very wet this year. The areas that are high in weeds are even higher because of all the rain we've had at least. On a dry summer, that wouldn't be as much of an issue as it is when. Mr. Chiappetta said if you go up north, though, we were up in North Conway this past weekend, and the trees are like almost bare up there.

They're just not full at all. It's quite the change from down here. Mr. Carter said so reach out to Department of Public Works and see what can be done, especially for 2022, if that can be put onto their mowing. Mr. Chiappetta said were they looking for assistance for the rest of this season, this year? People mow their grass through October. Ms. Ports said yes. My sense was yes that if it could happen this year, that would be ideal. I think just having a plan in place for next year would be a good goal. Mr. Chiappetta said sure. Ms. Ports said so the next update for you is the Bio Blitz. I believe I had sent out some correspondence.

Bio Blitz

Back before COVID, the Cooperative Extension had reached out to local towns and had sort-of suddenly realized that wow, the towns of NH own a lot of land. They surveyed the towns and realized the towns really don't, a lot of times they don't know what they have. One of the ways of addressing that knowledge gap was this idea of sponsoring a Bio Blitz. The Cooperative Extension is encouraging everyone who lives in NH to explore their town-owned lands in the month of September. You download an application on your phone called iNaturalist, which is extremely handy if you're just a general inquisitive person anyway. There's a place where you can select this project and they upload data throughout the month. You can do it independently. All those records of observations will be shared back to the towns. It's a way of supplementing, for example, a natural resource inventory. You might discover that you have a species or a plant that you didn't know you had, or you might realize, wow, we've got a major invasive plant issue here. It's, I think, a great way for the Conservation Commission to encourage people to get out on the properties, get some visibility. I spoke with the library, and they are really excited about this program, and suggested that we potentially partner to organize a family event at Bedford Village Common. And an adult event at the Heritage Trail. We're settling on the date of the 14th for the Heritage Trail walk and that would be at 3 o'clock in the afternoon—just about an hour. Then the 18th of September for the Bedford Village Common family event. So, what I'm asking today is whether that is a program that you guys would like to cosponsor. If it is, then we should consider how you want to participate, whether it's providing some volunteers to attend the functions or help plan the functions. You could sponsor some prizes at the family event, provide some public notification and outreach. The Library has indicated that it has sufficient funding to provide materials and prizes and help promote, so you don't necessarily have to participate financially. I am looking for volunteers to serve as biologists who can help people identify what they're seeing, if they don't know. So, I plan to attend and provide some of that experience. I'm also recruiting other volunteers, so that's another option.

Ms. Jones said I may be available for the weekend one for the family event. The other one is during, almost at the end of a school day, so I can't make it there. But definitely the 18th—did you say it was the 18th or the 25th? Ms. Ports answered the 18th. I think we're thinking about 10 a.m. We haven't settled on a final time.

Mr. Carter asked they're saying the family is the 14th? Ms. Ports answered no. Sorry, the family event is on the weekend. It's a Saturday. Mr. Carter asked and what's the adult event? Ms. Ports answered the adult event is probably 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Carter said unfortunately, 3 o'clock is a tough one. Ms. Ports said we could consider a different time if that's something that you're excited about doing. Mr. Carter said if you get too late, especially this time if you get too late, you get into the dusk and other things that fly in the air that makes the event like that not very enjoyable. Especially that Bedford Commons with the wetlands and the wet area there.

Ms. Ports said iNaturalist is a photograph-based application. So, you're actually taking photographs with your phone and those are called observations. Then the app helps you identify what you're seeing. It

narrows it down for you. Then your observations are verified by the pool of people who participate in the application. It's a global tool. It's being used worldwide for research. It's kind-of neat and exciting. So, the dusk issue is something we would need to consider.

Ms. Wachs said I'd be very interested in helping in some way. I don't think I would be able to attend the family event because we have other things planned, you said the 18th? But if I could be helpful on the other day, I could move my schedule around, potentially, to help out that day. Also with publicizing, did the library say anything about putting together advertising materials? Like putting together a flyer or anything that we can shop around a little but, put on social media? Ms. Ports said yah there's a lot of materials that the Extension has provided. I did send out a quick little—actually I meant to share that with you. There's a little video that they have put out that's available to share publicly. We've put it on the Bedford Community website. Even just sharing it on your social networks or with our friends or other, so I can provide that. I believe there's a link in the Staff Report that takes you to that video. Ms. Jones said it's right under Requested Action for the Commission. The link is there.

Ms. Wachs asked has anyone gotten in touch with schools? I know that they're really trying to encourage outdoor time. Considering this is the entire month of September, they wouldn't have to do an event on those specific days, but it would be really neat. I know that a lot of, at least the Bedford schools, have access to iPads and things like that. I can't speak for what that kind of access looks like right now. Ms. Ports said this is the promo. That sort-of gives you the gist. So maybe we could consider somehow sponsoring or coordinating an event with the schools and potentially recruiting. Ms. Wachs said I'm only familiar, really, with the elementary programs. But, in past years they've done a lot of things in the fall and the spring about going out and observing animals, specifically. So, finding monarch caterpillars on milkweed and I could see this kind-of slotting into that very easily the same kind of project. Ms. Ports said the school district does own properties around the school. So, those would be considered than town lands. I don't know about the technology issue. Ms. Wachs added I don't know about the technology, and I also don't know if it would require them leaving the school campuses to do these things, but I could see kids getting really into this. It would be a great way to keep them outside, too, for a little while. Ms. Ports said okay. Maybe if we did a school event, then we could provide some sort-of, I don't know, a certificate or some kind of acknowledgement. Ms. Wachs said sure. Or even just—it would be a great way to publicize it too.

Community Cohort Training

Ms. Ports said so, there was also, through the Cooperative Extension, a Community Cohort Training. This is an opportunity to sponsor a project and use the resources available at the Extension to get some guidance on how to get that project off the ground. There's also training, and the training involved explaining resources that are available at the state level, like In The Granite, which is their GIS mapping and what all their data layers are. They had other sessions on recruiting volunteers, working with the public, so we sort-of threw together a quick little proposal, and we were not selected this year. It sort-of raises the idea that it would be nice to have a couple of these thoughts and programs sort-of envisioned and flushed out more carefully, along with an idea of who, on the Commission or other volunteers in town, are excited about that particular project so that when a proposal opportunity comes up, assuming the schedule, you know, we can kind-of pick the project and the schedule that meets the certain volunteers that are available at that time. I would suggest that that is potentially something we add to our short-term work plan in terms of identifying some projects that we might want to consider in the future. For this past proposal, we talked about doing a pilot natural resources inventory, just on one of our town-owned lands, to get a better understanding of the resources that are out there and what it takes so that we could do it more widescale. If that is something we wanted to do. We also talked about

a land management plan for the Chubbuck Road lands or even how to kick off our Trail Stewardship program or the Noxious Weed program.

October Workshop

Ms. Ports continued so, October we've been talking a lot the October Workshop and how we want to use that time. I've gotten a lot of ideas from some of you about some short-term goals for the Commission and I'd like to continue to request some ideas through September up to our next meeting. Potentially at the next meeting, we could maybe have a sense of what's risen to the top in terms of what we're excited about doing or think is the most valuable or achievable in the next few months. What I'd really like to do is use the October Workshop to sort-of map out how we're going to do those tasks. It would be nice to pick our topics before we get to the October Workshop so that we can really get into the nuts and bolts of, okay, what does the Trail Stewardship Program look like? I can have guest speakers if we need to and we can kind-of outline a framework for how this is going to work, who's going to be involved, what do we need to start doing to get this off the ground. Mr. Carter said I would make sure we had a representative of PLC at our October to talk about what they are planning on doing, especially with the Marston property coming and stuff like that. I think us aligning with Piscataquog Land Conservancy would be, probably, the best thing for us as a Commission. Then we could be on the same page, especially when we start looking at the Marston property. I know we did the site walk and there's a logging road and there's a trail opportunity and stuff like that. I would definitely think, if we tell them well in advance, which it's a couple months away, just so we have someone from the PLC there to further discuss what they're planning on doing so that it aligns with what we're doing as a Commission. I'd rather not be stepping on toes or running down different paths when we can work together to have a common plan and goal to do things. Ms. Ports said okay. So, there are some ideas outlined for you on the Staff Report. I don't know if anyone has anything they'd like to share now. Otherwise, you can just email me individually.

Ms. Wachs said I wanted to add something, actually related to the Community Cohort Training that we were just talking about. So, this time it didn't work out, which is unfortunate. But it would be nice to have some of those projects lined up. Would we want to maybe set up a way to solicit project ideas? I don't know if we'd want to, how widely we'd want to cast that net? But would we want to set something up and maybe provide a template for what a project description would look like, what kinds of information is necessary, make sure that all the required pieces are there. It would just make it easier for people to submit, and also make it easier for, would it be you and Becky that would review those projects coming in? How would that work? Ms. Ports said I think what I'm envisioning, you know, I think this makes sense. Maybe what would happen is, there'd be a couple members who would say yah, I really like this idea. They could kind-of get together and create, you know, an outline of what they're thinking and submit that. I think we would want the Commission as a whole, though, to support the idea of what we would actually want to apply for. Ms. Wachs said so maybe during a couple of meetings, we would set aside some time to review project ideas that had come in and just see which ones look pretty viable and see which ones have a lot of interest. I think that would be neat. I know, I just thought of that because I remember a couple of years ago, Karen had set up like a checklist for people who wanted to come in and they were looking at variance requests because, sometimes they would come in and they would be missing some important paperwork or a map or a wetland delineation would be expired. So, I think she'd set up a checklist with here are all the things you need for us to do to accurately review your project. I think it would probably help to have something similar for project submissions. I don't know if you'd want to set up a Google Forum that would make it easier for people to do that. I'm happy to help with anything like that. It would be really neat to see what kind of ideas we could get from the community and from people on our Commission here. It would also be nice if we had an easy way to

collect those ideas that might percolate at a time when you're not sitting in a meeting with us and when you're not reading an email and thinking about it. Ms. Hebert said, and a project might be appropriate for an Eagle Scout, or for some other volunteer that's looking for community service. You could have a folder of different ideas. Ms. Wachs said yah, we could do a lot of things with that information.

Mr. Chiappetta said I go back to that gentleman who came to the, you know who I'm talking about? Ms. Wachs said Chubbuck Road? Mr. Chiappetta said He's a vet? Ms. Wachs said yah, he's a veterinarian. Mr. Chiappetta said yah, and I really, it was a lot, right? Ms. Wachs said he did a PowerPoint presentation, had a full deck set up and everything. Mr. Chiappetta said but it was great, and it definitely was something that I think—he was so passionate about it. Getting him at a meeting or getting him advertised out there that, I think, what he was talking about would appeal to a lot of people out there—especially kids—you know, the younger generation. They like to be outside. I think we have an untapped resource, just even the NH Bio Blitz, right, getting them out. Families that can, right, in between soccer games and all the other things. Ms. Jones said he was someone I had in mind when I was proposing some ideas, because we all have other responsibilities that we have to manage, and we have citizens that want to be involved. I think we'll spearhead those projects, but it's also about collaborating and integrating the community so that it doesn't necessarily rely solely on a member of the Commission. It is a partnership with the community. That's why some of those ideas I've kind-of proposed to you, those are the people I have in mind, because they've come to us with all this information and these ideas. Now what do we do with them? We need to actually like move forward with those ideas. Mr. Chiappetta said, and I think, you're talking about engaging the community, but even tapping into someone like him to help be an ambassador, right, for this Committee. Or maybe we approach him about if he has any interest in being a member on the Commission? Ms. Wachs said that's always an option. If you meet anyone. If you have friends, family, neighbors who might want to—we have alternate spots open. Mr. Chiappetta continued yah, he was someone I thought of immediately. Maybe he would be someone that, you know, could be sort-of a point person for managing the projects. Looking at sort-of what we're going to do—even if it's one of his own. Mr. Clough said I think we need to be careful, though, because when I heard his talk, it was a very good talk. But I also heard a lot of advocacy for what he was doing, and I'm thinking okay, what is his real motive here. Is he someone who says not in my backyard? Because I was thinking about also the town side, you know, they're going to need some of the Chubbuck land for who knows what. I'm all for, you know my expertise was also wetland remediation, but also landfills, because landfills create a lot of wetlands. I think we need to be careful about how many stakeholders we have and what's the vision or purpose or goal of that stakeholder. You know what I mean? Mr. Chiappetta said sure.

Ms. Wachs said I was thinking any, at least from the project proposal side of things, that they would be vetted by either all of us or a subcommittee of people from the Commission—that it would be something that would kind-of filter through. Ms. Jones said not necessarily, like you said, maybe that project, be careful with that particular, that area. But, if that person has the motivation and the drive to want to be involved in a project, they should have other projects to still be involved with. Mr. Clough said right. The environment is very multi-faceted. Mr. Chiappetta said I think very much like this Commission, right, it's our responsibility to take an idea and a vision that someone like him has, whether its him or anybody, and tease that out, sort-of really understand what's the driving factor behind it. Is there sort-of another agenda? I think we can very much do that. We can ask those pointed questions to them, so.

Mr. Clough said on another note, Becky mentioned Boy Scouts and I'm a Boy Scout leader for Troop 5 in Bedford. I'd be willing to serve as a liaison, not just for Troop 5, but for all the troops. When we walked

the Marston property, you mentioned the bog. So, you know, some Eagle projects are too much for one Eagle Scout. They can be kind of woven in with a troop project. It's very easy to get a troop together on a Saturday and have many hands, you know. So, if something's too big, a good example is like Joppa Hill, where like my son's Eagle project will be building a goat play structure. Whereas when they were showing me around the property, they said well we also have this lean to here for horses, but it was gigantic. It was timber frame, and I'm like well this is definitely troop level, whereas this is Eagle project level. So, I'd just like to throw my name out there that, you know, if there are opportunities for, you know, remediation or natural resource improvement, I'd be willing to step out on that account. Becky said that's great.

Mr. Clough continued and then getting back to, I guess one question I have for the Committee is do we have a Trails Program that's self-directed in town? Like where you would walk along a trail and there would be a post with a QR code, and you click it? We don't have anything like that. Ms. Ports said no. We've started a mapping effort. So, we have a lot of trail maps available, but there's not an interpretive component to them. Mr. Clough said just walking the Marston property, I mean I saw like five different microenvironments and, you know, you could get people educated on, I don't know whether anybody knows three quarters of the way through the walk, we came through this little glade where there were little thin trees, and the sun was shining though? I'm thinking this is very strange that all these thin saplings are coming up, which kind-of in my mind was why is this? Whereas if you got a biologist in there, they may say well it's because of this type of soil and this type of microenvironment or whatever. Just throwing ideas out there. Ms. Ports said I love the QR idea because I'm also seeing that we have some interpretive panels that have degraded. And, you know, the cost and time in maintaining those and, so that would be a low-cost way to connect people with their environment. I think the kids can embrace that technology and even create it. That's a great way to bring them in. They probably know a lot more about it. Ms. Donovan said I've used them on trails at other times and they're really useful. And I amaze other people my age when I do it. Actually, they are very, very useful. Also, they can be updated easily if something happens rather than getting a whole new board. Ms. Ports said right. Ms. Donovan said I love that.

Ms. Ports said okay, so I did receive an email from a cub scout about a project, and it's just at the exploratory stages at this point. The thought was to provide access to Ash Bog, behind the Foursquare Church, which is this property right here. This pathway here is the town-owned easement on the bog. This is an overview. So, here again is the church. Here's the waterway—just to kind of give you a sense of, okay, if there was access there for a kayak or a canoe, would it be worthwhile, I guess. That was sort-of my first question. So, I believe the vision is like a small wooden dock. I don't know where or, you know, it looks like the maybe the property is a little bit skewed, so, in terms of where they're going to be able to put in might be limited. Mr. Clough asked is that the only access to the bog for the public? Ms. Ports answered there is a trail called The Goad Trail on Harvey Road, which is, I don't know that I can access it on this map. But it's got what they call bog bridges, the planks with the little wooden, I think it might be tires, actually. I attempted to explore out there recently. It's pretty overrun with poison ivy, and I wasn't dressed for poison ivy. The trail itself is overgrown, so it needs some maintenance. It's also an extremely wet environment, so I'm not sure how sustainable the trail system is out there. That is one opportunity where the public can access the bog. Mr. Clough said so scouts could build a kind-of a dock or something to launch a kayak? Ms. Ports said I do believe it's like an individual's scout project. Mr. Clough said okay. Ms. Hebert said there'd be wetland permitting associated with that for the scout. Ms. Wachs said could you go back to the map that had the plans overlaid? So, it looks like if a dock were to go it, it would go straight up. If you're drawing a line, straight up, it would be somewhere in there? Where would it go? Ms. Ports said I think he was just sort-of saying, hey, is this even worth me investing

the time? Is this something that would be supported? That's all I know. Ms. Wachs said I'm just curious because it does look like the water cuts onto properties? It doesn't look like it follows the easement, if that's accurate. Ms. Ports said I guess that's a question I'm not 100 percent—I believe this is the GIS mapping, which, I believe is the most accurate, typically, that we have. Ms. Wachs said yah, so I just want to make sure that if you've got people launching kayaks, if they're not already, that it would be on public property and not what looks like private, residential stuff. Permission would need to be granted. Ms. Hebert said the scout maybe better to explore the Goad Trail access, and if there's room to add that to the Goad Trailhead. Because we'd also run into kind-of parking and access issues on the church property. Ms. Ports said parking is an issue on the Goad Trail. There is no parking there now. Ms. Jones said Harvey is off of River Road, I think. Ms. Ports said do you know where Jenkins and the grocery store is off 101? If you go straight across the road, that's Hardy. Ms. Jones said oh, Hardy! I'm thinking of the wrong place. Ms. Ports said sorry. It's Hardy. It makes its way to North Amherst, so, on the way between North Amherst and Wallace—there's a trail there. There is a sign. It's a little hard to find. Mr. Clough said do you know the address of the closest house to that trail? Ms. Ports said I don't off the top of my head. I can find out. Mr. Clough said it's called The Goad? Ms. Ports said Goad. I believe so. G O A D. Mr. Clough said G O A D E? Ms. Ports said I don't believe there's an E on it. Does this have internet access, Becky? Ms. Hebert said yes. Does the scout have a timeline for their project? I know sometimes they're butting up against specific time restrictions because of a birthday or? Ms. Ports answered yah, I reached out and I haven't heard back. I don't know any of that. Mr. Clough asked so what troop is this? Ms. Ports said I don't know that, but maybe you would recognize the name, Jonathan Goedecke? Mr. Clough said oh okay. That's 414 in Manchester, I think. He's a member of that church, I think. Ms. Jones said it's G O A D apostrophe S. Mr. Clough said okay. Ms. Ports said maybe what I'll do is just go to the town website. I don't want to take your time on this either. I believe there's a map on the town website. Did you find that? Ms. Jones said ah, no. This was actually a separate site. Actually, it was Bedford online something. I was just mostly looking for the spelling of the name first. Ms. Hebert said we can come back with some more information and research it. Ms. Ports said I will. I'll do that, but so preliminary concerns are just parking, permission from the church for access, whether or not this is the best location or if there's another location that would be better like the Goad Trail. Ms. Wachs asked are there people who currently use this waterway for these purposes? I guess that's what my concern is. I would just want to make sure that we're being thorough before more people are added to a situation where normally it's quiet. What the expectation is there, especially since there are so many residences abutting it. Ms. Ports said I think it would be worth asking if he's explored back there, because it is really vegetated. I'm not sure whether or not you can even manipulate a small kayak or a canoe and turn around and, you know, maybe there's a better location for something like this where there's more open water. But maybe he's done that research. I just don't know. Mr. Clough said my guess is the Goedeckes are members of that church, right? So, they're probably thinking this is an ideal location for a launching pad. And most Eagle Scout projects are done for, well I shouldn't say most, but a lot of them are done for churches and charitable foundations. Ms. Wachs said so that would be good to know if maybe church members already use that and, you know, they were looking for something that's more structured back there. That would be fine. I think I just want to make sure that we're not going from zero to sixty, you know, a trail of people hiking with their kayaks through the woods. Ms. Ports said okay. I imagine that the scout would have to write a proposal and present it. Board agrees, yes. Ms. Ports concludes alright, so communicate your initial thoughts to him, and hopefully we'll have something on the next agenda. Mr. Carter added maybe some upkeep or some work for Eagle-project-on-the-go trail. That might be even more beneficial than trying to put a launch in? Ms. Ports said yah, I've been starting to do a little bit of research on what are the best trail mechanisms when you have such a wet situation like that. Because I think the upkeep is an issue in other locations as well throughout town in those wet settings. So, finding something a little bit more sustainable, and maybe

it's a winter trail? Maybe it's not a summer trail? Mr. Carter said where the launch is now during this wet season might not be next year when it could be a dry summer, and that's not a launch—it's just a dry area. Ms. Wachs said okay. I'm glad they're interested, though. Ms. Ports said yes. I was concerned that other groups were stealing all our scouts for their projects. So, I was very excited when we got an application, because I had heard that that was something to expect, and I hadn't seen any since I started. My faith is renewed. So that's it for other business.

Ms. Donovan said actually, can I add another business? The turtle crossing sign has gone up on Meadow Crest and it looks wonderful. (cheers from the Commission) I saw it on Friday, and I went back today, and it looks really nice. Ms. Ports said I have a funny story about that. I was driving to the grocery store on Jenkins and my daughter said Mom, that sign--I said something about the turtle sign—and she said oh, you mean turtle king? And I said, no, no. It's not turtle king. It's turtle crossing. And she's like, I'm pretty sure it said king! And I said oh! No, it's an X. And then I said you know, the other day when I was driving by, I thought that turtle had a crown on his head. So, on the way home, we stopped and looked, and yes, it is now the turtle king! (laughter) But I think it's humorous. Ms. Wachs said as long as it gets people to stop for the turtles. The effectiveness is still there. Ms. Ports said exactly. He needs a queen, maybe. (laughter) Ms. Wachs said so, announcements?

Announcements

Ms. Wachs read the announcements. The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHAAC) is having their 50th Anniversary Celebration this year at Bear Brook State Park at the shelter pavilion on September 11th, from 9:30 to 1:30. I'm not familiar with what is going to happen at that event. Ms. Ports said yah, this is a little bit different, and I don't know that they've provided a whole lot of detail. But it's certainly just an opportunity to network with other Commissions and find out what they're doing and where their successes are and where their failures are. I'm going to try to go. I have to look at the family calendar, but just to even put some faces and names together. Ms. Wachs said it's a really great organization, and that leads into they're having another virtual conference this year on November 6th with 12 breakout sessions covering a wide range of topics. They always get fantastic speakers. I'm going to really push to do it this year. I missed it last year. It's not like I totally regret sitting in front of a virtual conference all day long, but this is a really good one. I think if you can have the time for it, and I believe we have budget to cover registration. Ms. Hebert said we do, yes. Ms. Wachs asked for this and for similar educational opportunities? Ms. Hebert said yes. Ms. Wachs said I think, if I recall correctly, Conservation Commission members are encouraged to take advantage of one or two throughout the year. This is a really good one. They also, once you get sort-of connected into the NHACC network, and get on their email list, they were doing these lunch talks this year over Zoom. They were so good. I watched a couple, you know, eating a sandwich at my desk, and I should have taken better notes. They were really informative. I think one was on natural versus invasive plants in New Hampshire, and how we can replace the invasives with naturals and native plants to help that. That's my plug for them.

Ms. Ports said so we have a membership, and I did speak to the director Barbara Richter and she suggested I share my login and password with all of you to provide access. Apparently, the membership covers the whole Commission. That's something they're working on in the future. Does everybody get their own login and how does that work? I can send out that email. But you're right. They are a wealth... I emailed her today and instantly had a great answer to all my questions. Maybe we could consider a virtual meeting where you come in for a specific session and we're together? Just to make it a little bit more collaborative or community-oriented, if that's something you guys are interested in. Ms. Wachs said yah. Ms. Ports said we can look into setting that up. Ms. Wachs said they do a really good job of

curating speakers. The keynote speaker, the year that I went in person, the keynote speaker was really fantastic. He was a researcher from Boston University. I was riveted the whole time. Ms. Jones said last year I attended the virtual one and I took the basic one on the history of Conservation Commissions in New Hampshire and that was really informative. And then one specifically on turtle species here in the state. It wasn't too bad sitting in front of the computer. They broke it up pretty good. Ms. Wachs said yah, they've set the bar high for presentations online. I just thought there were some really good ones. That's November 6th. Ms. Hebert said they have a pretty in-depth agenda, if I remember. They have different tracks you can take, and there's quite a bit of training offered at that one event. Ms. Wachs said it was also interesting when I was there in person to learn how other Commissions operate. I think we're very fortunate that we're part of a town that respects our opinion as a group and includes our recommendations in the zoning and the planning of things. There are some Conservation Commissions that are sort-of like hi, we're over here. Pay attention to us. It just reminded me of, this is great that we have a town that cares about these things and wants to keep this group going.

I think we have reached the end of our agenda. Is there anything else? We had a couple of additions, but it looks like that might have been it?

MOTION: Mr. Carter makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wachs duly seconded the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Sue Forcier