



## TOWN OF BOW

### Conservation Commission

10 Grandview Road, Bow, New Hampshire 03304

Phone (603) 228-1187 | Fax (603) 225-2982 | Website [www.bownh.gov](http://www.bownh.gov)

### Approved on March 6, 2017.

#### **Bow Conservation Commission Meeting February 16, 2017 Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Bow Conservation Commission was held on February 16 at 7:30 PM. Chair Sandy Crystall called the meeting to order.

Members present: Sandy Crystall, Wendy Waskin, David Kirkpatrick, and Bob Ball. Kitty Lane was absent. Also present was Alvina Snegach, recording secretary.

Ms. Crystall welcomed Bow resident Mr. Robert Ball who had been sworn in as a member of the Bow Conservation Commission in January.

#### **Unapproved minutes 12/12/2016**

After reviewing the minutes and making changes Ms. Waskin made the motion, duly seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

#### **Turee Pond – status and actions.**

##### **Milfoil.**

An email from Amy Smagula from NHDES about the grant funding for milfoil treatment of Turee Pond was discussed. Ms. Crystall conveyed her communication with Ms. Smagula about the possibility to only use divers this year. Commission then discussed the need for, and concerns and risk associated with, herbicide treatments; monitoring levels of dissolved oxygen before and after treatment (Sandy noted that DES had monitoring of DO levels before and after the treatment in 2016); which areas the divers will cover; and examples of other lakes' treatments. Then Ms. Crystall said that she also needs to discuss the funding with Town Manager Dave Stack prior to submitting the paperwork.

*Ms. Waskin made a motion to accept the partial grant for only diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH) and contribute a portion of the funding, which was duly seconded by Mr. Ball and passed with a unanimous vote.*

##### **Lake Host and Weed Watcher.**

Commission members discussed the need to continue pursuing the Lake Host for Turee Pond. General consensus was that Weed Watcher approach maybe a better option at this time as it requires less commitment on the part of the Town. Options to monitor milfoil at the pond were discussed, among which were Weed Watchers, participation in VLAP (Volunteer Lake Assessment Program), and updating the information on the kiosk by the boat launch. Ms. Waskin will check with NH Fish and Game Department on the requirements for updating the information

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on the kiosk. The members briefly discussed what kind of information should be displayed. Then discussion turned to Weed Watchers' training, and what they actually do, and how to advertise it to get more people interested in participating. Ms. Crystall will contact Amy Smagula to find out more on conducting a training. Mr. Ball also indicated interest in monitoring Turee Pond through the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program. A short discussion followed. Mr. Ball will contact the VLAP coordinator Sara Steiner at NH DES to get more details about the program.

### **BCC Goals and Priorities.**

#### **Creating Conservation Commission Bylaws/ "Operational Guidelines".**

Commission members discussed the rationale for creating bylaws and what they should cover. Among things discussed were: difference between bylaws and guidelines; other towns' examples; how extensive the bylaws should be; and need to include the provisions for changing the rules. Ms. Crystall will work on a draft for the April meeting.

#### **Website and Outreach Updates.**

Conservation Commission webpage discussion included the following: suggestions for changes/updates; determining what message the page would convey; whether a Facebook page can become an option; what activities to promote; and possibly asking Bow Open Spaces to promote BCC activity on their Facebook page. Among events for raising awareness the following were suggested: vernal pool presentation (talk and walk) by Ms. Crystall; a workshop for children on forests by a forester; and a presentation about hemlocks and invasive species. Ms. Crystall asked the members to provide more feedback on the website.

Ms. Waskin also reiterated that the Commission should invite the Town Forester Mr. Klemarczyk to come to one of the meetings to discuss forest management.

### **Other Items.**

#### **Bow Open Spaces & Hilary Warner's 2/3/17 email and trail priorities.**

Ms. Crystall went over the email from Ms. Warner that contained an update on Bow Open Spaces recent activity, including a meeting with the Conservation Commission, and some future plans. A short discussion ensued about Ms. Warner's visit to Concord CC Trails Committee and her inquiry about having a similar one in Bow. Ms. Crystall asked the members to provide more feedback.

#### **Conservation Commission Report for Town Annual Report**

Ms. Crystall thanked the members for their comments and said that the report was to be submitted.

#### **Town Meeting and Warrant Articles for Conservation Easements on Tow Town-Owned Parcels.**

Ms. Crystall briefed the members about the status of the warrant articles that put conservation easements on two Town-owned parcels. She will be making a visual presentation at the Town Meeting and answering questions for those who are concerned. Ms. Crystall said that the Board of Selectmen also asked Dave Stack if it would be possible to address the concerns which were

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raised that year the proposition failed. Ms. Crystall will check with Mr. Stack on the status of that request.

#### **BCC Email to BHS Environmental Science Teacher**

Ms. Crystall noted that she wrote an email to the Bow High School Environmental Science Teacher about cooperating with the Conservation Commission, however she has not heard back yet.

#### **Ongoing/Future meetings, workshops, etc.**

- Upper Merrimack River Monitoring Program – Bug Nights – Wednesday evenings (6-9 PM) at St. Paul’s School in Concord;
- Saving Special Places (Land Conservation Conference) – Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> in Alton. A table of events/exhibits was distributed to the members.
- NHACC email about legislation. Ms. Crystall asked the members if they are getting these emails;
- UMLAC meeting – it was noted that it takes place the same day as the Commission meeting (March 6) in March.
- Ms. Crystall briefly listed all the mail the Commission received since the last meeting.

**Next Meeting:** In preparation for the Town Meeting and due to some members’ conflicting schedules, it was decided to conduct the next meeting on Monday, March 6, 2017.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM**