

1                                   **Sandown Conservation Commission**

2   **Minutes**

3   **March 27, 2014**

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5   **Date:** March 27, 2014

6   **Place:** Sandown Town Hall

7   **Members Present:** Paul Carey – Chair, Brian Butler, Kevin Major, Andrea Cairns

8   **Members Absent:** Mark Traeger

9   **Selectmen’s Liaison:** Mr. Jim Devine: Absent

10   **Environmental Consultant:** Mr. Gerry Miller: Present

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12   **Opening:** Mr. Carey opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

13  
14   **Review of the 3/13/14 Minutes**

15   L35 – change the word “that” to “the current”

16   **MOTION:** Mr. Butler made a motion to accept the 3/13/14 minutes as amended. Mr.  
17   Major seconded the motion. Ms. Cairns abstained. The motion passed.

18  
19   **Correspondence**

20   Wildlife Journal

21   Annual Report from the Rockingham County Conservation District

22  
23   **DES Wetland Violations**

24   *56 North Road*

25   DES sent a letter to the board notifying them of a potential wetlands violation. There is  
26   currently no wetlands permit on file.

27  
28   Mr. Miller noted anyone could file a complaint and it becomes DESs responsibility to  
29   follow up stating they received a complaint and will do further investigation. It is the  
30   owner’s responsibility to prove there is no violation. They could ask for an after-the-fact  
31   application if building the pond did disturb a wetland. If it is found that there is a  
32   violation, they will get another letter stating they need to return the area to the original  
33   state and there will likely be fines.

34  
35   Mr. Major asked if we as a conservation commission should take action on a letter like  
36   that. Mr. Carey noted DES will complete their investigation and may ask for their input.  
37   Mr. Miller noted if they chose to, they could give input. If DES finds a violation, the  
38   property owners will need to come to conservation for an after-the-fact CUP.

39  
40   Mr. Carey noted after-the-fact permits are really for future owners so all loose ends are  
41   taken care of. There were several things that needed after the fact permits for the  
42   recreation building. Because the town would eventually take ownership of the land and  
43   the liability as well, this board decided everything needed to be on file and taken care of  
44   before ownership was transferred to protect the town against any liability.

45

46 Mr. Carey noted it is an alleged violation. The pond was highly publicized, so he had  
47 doubts there was a wetland violation.

48

49 Mr. Major thought they might have needed to get an alteration of terrain permit. Mr.  
50 Miller noted there could be some questions raised if they dug down below the water table  
51 and that action is what created the pond.

52

53 Mr. Miller noted that the board isn't here to go after violators unless the consensus  
54 decides to do that. Normally, a resident brings a violation to our attention and the  
55 complaint goes to DES. The board can advise the resident how to file the complaint.

56

#### 57 *Meghan Drive Fire Pond*

58 The board received notification that the permit for the fire pond on Meghan's Way has  
59 been denied and the fire pond needs to be removed and the area restored to its original  
60 condition.

61

#### 62 **Town Property Signage**

63 Ms. Cairns presented two different size signs. Members discussed the purpose of the  
64 signs and whether they needed larger or smaller signs. Mr. Butler thought there were uses  
65 for both sizes. Members agreed the larger signs would be appropriate for properties near  
66 parking areas or roadways; entrances to trails and the red barn would need smaller signs.

67

68 Members discussed potential locations for signs.

69

70 **MOTION:** Mr. Butler made a motion to purchase (6) 16x20 signs and (6) 18x24 signs.  
71 Mr. Carey seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

72

#### 73 **Fishing Derby**

74 Mr. Butler reviewed the details:

75

76 The event will be held on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

77

78 Registration is 7:00 a.m.; fishing will be 7:30-9:30.

79

80 Brianna spoke with Mr. Genuardo about using his pond and he approved the date.

81

82 Volunteers will be needed. Mr. Major will check with Police and Fire Explorers.

83

84 Members agreed to keep the fish quantity and breakdown the same as last year.

85

86 Jared Magoon will have a table selling refreshments to raise money for his Eagle Scout  
87 project.

88

89 There have been many donations, but they will try and get a few more.

90

91 TD Bank is not sure if they can do the t-shirts. They will get back to Brianna.

92

93 Andrea will call for the police detail. The detail will be needed from 6:30-10:30 with  
94 a cruiser.

95

96 A port-o-potty will need to be reserved.

97

98 Brian will take care of putting up the sign. He usually puts it up a week before. He will  
99 need assistance.

100

### 101 **Community Garden**

102 Mr. Butler noted one of the gardeners is willing to take over management of the garden  
103 for this year. He noted it would need to be tilled. Mr. Major will call Jim Bassett to get an  
104 estimate.

105

106 Members thought it would be appropriate to have her come to a meeting so we could  
107 discuss how things have been done before.

108

109 -----

110

111 Mr. Major noted that Jimmy Beucler's Eagle Scout Ceremony will be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

112 Mr. Major will send out the time when he knows the details.

113

### 114 **Tick Management**

115 Mr. Major noted the scouts will have their first camping outing in April and questioned if  
116 the field would be sprayed.

117

118 Mr. Carey noted the feedback was that it was going to cost too much money and there  
119 was no guarantee that it would help.

120

121 Mr. Butler noted the best thing to do is to cut the field a week or two weeks before they  
122 go. The lower the grass, the fewer ticks. The ticks are around the perimeter and in the  
123 leaves. Mr. Butler noted the closer they can cut the brush to the wall, the better.

124

125 Mr. Carey noted that to cut that brush back and put the stones back on the wall is an  
126 enormous amount of volunteer work.

127

### 128 **Old Business**

129 Mr. Butler noted the recount ended with the same result, but they lost four additional  
130 votes.

131

### 132 **New Business**

133 Mr. Butler wants to frost seed clover into the wildlife opening. He would like to spend  
134 \$50 to do that. He noted by frost seeding it, it works it into the soil more. It is considered  
135 a winter perennial. This is beneficial to wildlife.

136

137 Mr. Butler explained the layout of the field and explained their strategy behind why they  
138 planted what they did.

139

140 **MOTION:** Mr. Butler made a motion to purchase \$50 in clover to seed the wildlife  
141 opening out of the forestry management fund. Mr. Major seconded the motion. Members  
142 voted in favor. The motion passed.

143

144 *Wetlands Permits*

145 Mr. Miller noted that DES is looking for input on the wetlands permitting process and  
146 what they can do to improve the process. He wondered if conservation might want to  
147 send in some recommendations.

148

149 Mr. Miller would like to recommend as part of the approval process, they be included on  
150 any changes made to the application. If there are changes to the design, it should go back  
151 through all the boards for notification.

152

153 Members agreed it would be worth putting together recommendations.

154

155 Mr. Carey would like to add a requirement that they be notified that the project has been  
156 started and completed. Mr. Miller noted DES should also follow up on projects. Mr.  
157 Carey noted you can go around to developments that are technically complete and you  
158 can still find silt fences and hay bails. Mr. Miller noted you can find developments that  
159 were approved 5-10 years ago and they are just starting the work. Members discussed  
160 new technology they are using (socks, terra tubes) instead of silt fences.

161

162 Mr. Carey also felt the process should be simplified so the regular homeowner can  
163 navigate the permitting process.

164

165 **MOTION:** Mr. Butler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Major seconded the motion.  
166 Members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned at  
167 8:42 p.m.

168

169 Respectfully Submitted,



170

171 Andrea Cairns