

1                                   **Sandown Conservation Commission**  
2   **Minutes**  
3   **December 17, 2015**

4  
5 **Date:** December 17, 2015

6 **Place:** Sandown Town Hall

7 **Members Present:** Paul Carey – Chair, Brian Butler – Vice Chair, Pam Gaudreau,  
8 Tom Sands, Terry Knuuttunen, Sophie Dykeman

9 **Members Absent:** Kevin Major, Mark Traeger

10 **Selectmen’s Liaison:** Jon Goldman: Absent

11 **Environmental Consultant:** Bruce Gilday: Present

12  
13 Mr. Carey opened the meeting at approximately 7:05 p.m.

14  
15 **Review of the 11/5/15 Minutes**

16 **MOTION:** Mr. Butler made a motion to approve the 11/5/15 minutes as written. Ms.  
17 Gaudreau seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

18  
19 **Review of the 11/5/15 Non-Public Minutes**

20 **MOTION:** Mr. Butler made a motion to approve the 11/5/15 non-public minutes as written.  
21 Mr. Sands seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

22  
23 **Correspondence**

- 24     • SE Landtrust newsletter
- 25     • Small farm equipment brochure
- 26     • Rockingham County Conservation District newsletter
- 27     • ESRLAC dues for 2016. **MOTION:** Mr. Butler made a motion to pay \$200 for the  
28         annual ESRLAC dues from the 2015 budget. Ms. Gaudreau seconded the motion. All  
29         members voted in favor. The motion passed.
- 30     • Notice that Mr. Traeger was appointed to ESRLAC by the Selectmen. If anyone else  
31         wants to put their name in to be on that board there is another slot open. Mr.  
32         Traeger was appointed for a three year term. Mr. Carey and Mr. Gilday explained  
33         ESRLAC for the rest of the board.
- 34     • *Town & City Magazine*

35  
36 **7:15 p.m. – update on archeologist visit**

37 Ms. Gaudreau met with her. She was very pleasant, but wasn’t able to do much field work.  
38 She did review two areas that Ms. Gaudreau felt they were of great historical value. They did  
39 some back and forth on whether it was pre-colonial or not. She did a site walk at the  
40 Danville beehive and felt it was a colonial root cellar. Ms. Gaudreau’s main goal was to get  
41 the sites mapped and recognized as historical value.

42  
43 Ms. Gaudreau showed her photos of some sites on town property and the archeologist  
44 noted she had never seen anything like that. The archeologist would like Ms. Gaudreau to  
45 send her more photos, but Ms. Gaudreau felt it was important for them to see the actual  
46 land and the layout since a picture really can’t capture everything. Ms. Gaudreau felt the  
47 state wouldn’t move forward with additional site visits, so she will likely need to get a grant

48 and find a way to fund a study. It's very controversial as to who considers things historic.  
49 There are always conflicting opinions to what is valuable.

50

51 **7:30 - Update on trail construction on Odell Rd.**

52 Mr. Major put that item on the agenda and wasn't present to discuss so it will be placed on  
53 the agenda for the next meeting that he can attend.

54

55 **Bruce Gilday - Status of state legislation on wetland setbacks**

56 The NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists had a meeting to discuss the potential  
57 changes. They are chairing a committee to put some scientific facts to the benefits of  
58 wetland setbacks. The state regulation changes for setbacks are still at least 6 months out. It  
59 will go through review with the opportunity for towns to comment. The state currently has  
60 no wetland setbacks. The towns started to implement their own setbacks but there is no  
61 science behind the value of setbacks. They've had wetland scientists do research to  
62 determine why setbacks are valuable.

63

64 Board members discussed the benefits to setbacks and why they are important and possibly  
65 unnecessary.

66

67 Ms. Gaudreau questioned if there was a study that found property that is built right up to  
68 wetlands has less impact?

69

70 Mr. Bruce noted there are ways to construct your site and design topography so water  
71 coming off impervious surfaces can be directed in a way so that they have as little impact as  
72 possible. Things like rain gardens and dry wells can go a long way.

73

74 Mr. Gilday noted that for properties that need to obtain an alteration of terrain permit, DES  
75 is starting to require that developers incorporate recharge areas where the water from  
76 impervious surface funnels into and then into the ground.

77

78 Mr. Carey noted there is a big subdivision off of Reed Road in Chester that has an elaborate  
79 system for water filtration and collection. He questioned what that would do to the  
80 mosquito population and whether it would be better for it to filter naturally. If you are going  
81 to have a regulation, you want to have a scientific reason for it.

82

83 **Disbursement of state ARM funds for land preservation**

84 Mr. Gilday gave an overview of the ARM program (aquatic resource mitigation). If you  
85 impact more than 10,000 sq. ft of wetlands DES requires that you do compensatory  
86 mitigation. There are different ways to do that: you can restore wetlands; create wetlands in  
87 a 10:1 ratio, meaning if you want to impact one acre you have to create 10 acres of  
88 conservation land; and finally pay a fee which becomes the ARM grant. The money collected  
89 is given out as grant money for towns to purchase open space. They just recently released  
90 the list of who received the grants; they disbursed \$2.2M. Mr. Gilday feels Sandown should  
91 apply for some of that money in 2016. There is an application that needs to be submitted  
92 and you must buy valuable open space. He thought any parcel that has the Exeter River or  
93 any other protected water body would be considered valuable. He will bring the 2015 list of  
94 disbursements to the next meeting so the board can review the types of properties that  
95 were purchased.

96

97

98 **Update on potential wetland violation at 11 Penacook Rd.**

99 A neighbor notified the commission that someone was turning a wetland into a pond. Mr.  
100 Carey noted he would think the state might encourage something like that, but the property  
101 owner needs to obtain the proper permits. We like to approach the homeowner and try to  
102 avoid violations and help them out. We aren't policing, just trying to advise them; even if  
103 they are legitimate projects, we want to help them out before a violation happens. If we  
104 don't get cooperation, we at least make the state aware of the violation and the state follows  
105 up.

106  
107 Mr. Gilday noted he went to the property and introduced himself and told the homeowner  
108 that someone made a complaint. He offered to look at the property to see if there was in fact  
109 a violation. The property owner would not let them on the property. He gave her his contact  
110 information as well as contact for Mr. Carey and Mr. Butler. He feels like they should give  
111 them another chance before reporting them to the state and provide them with some  
112 resources. If he was allowed to go on the property, he could determine if it was a wetland  
113 and if there was a violation and advise them how to proceed either way. He couldn't see  
114 anything from the road and couldn't tell if there was a violation.

115  
116 Mr. Carey suggested that Ms. Cairns mail an informational document to the homeowner  
117 making them aware there is a potential violation. They should notify the town within 10  
118 days if they would allow the town's wetland scientist on the property to do a site visit, or  
119 they will notify the state that there is a potential violation. He noted he would leave  
120 information for her to send to the homeowner. Let them know they want to offer guidance  
121 and advise them, not get them in trouble. Bottom line is, you need to get the proper permits.

122  
123 **Old Business**

124 Mr. Carey noted they had an invoice for \$125 from Mr. Butler for the mowing of the town  
125 forest field and wildlife opening. They had previously approved having Mr. Butler do this  
126 work.

127  
128 **MOTION:** Ms. Gaudreau made a motion to appropriate \$125 out of the conservation fund  
129 for Mr. Butler for his work mowing the field and wildlife opening. Mr. Sands seconded the  
130 motion. Members voted in favor. Mr. Butler abstained. The motion passed.

131  
132 Mr. Butler showed some pictures of the wildlife opening. He noted there is a row of  
133 grapevine growing in the back. He would like to trim back some of the brush that is covering  
134 it. Mr. Carey suggested asking Mr. Zanello what they should do in terms of maintenance.

135  
136 Mr. Carey questioned if they should add any plot mix up there. Mr. Butler thought a frost  
137 seeding of clover would be good. Mr. Carey will do some research on when the best time to  
138 do that is.

139  
140 Mr. Butler noted that someone got an 8 pointer, 170 pound deer out of the town forest. He  
141 hasn't seen any, but was encouraged that deer are returning.

142  
143 Mr. Carey donated some winter Rye for the community garden and Mr. Butler spread it out.

144  
145 *Petition Warrant*

146 Ms. Gaudreau noted she had 16 signatures. She emailed everyone on the board the warrant  
147 noting they need to gain signatures. She questioned if they should be using social media to

148 gather signatures. Mr. Carey noted once the petition is submitted they can utilize social  
149 media to get people to deliberative. It would be helpful to get people informed and  
150 educated.

151  
152 Ms. Dykeman noted she went to the NHACC annual meeting and found they had templates  
153 of informational sheets that address their situation that might be helpful to adapt and hand  
154 out. Mr. Carey suggested she find those templates and bring them to the next meeting for  
155 review.

156  
157 Ms. Dykeman reviewed her experience at the NHACC conference and the different sessions  
158 she attended. She found it very informative.

159  
160 Members discussed the forestry management plan and explained for new members what  
161 the plan was for.

162  
163 **New business**

164 Mr. Butler wants everyone to give some thought to goals for the next year. What's the big  
165 thing they want to do for 2016 and bring those ideas to the next meeting.

166  
167 **MOTION:** Ms. Dykeman made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Sands seconded the motion. All  
168 members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed. MEETING ADJOURNED at  
169 approximately 8:22 p.m.

170  
171 Respectfully Submitted,



172  
173 Andrea Cairns