

Sandown Conservation Commission
Minutes
July 13, 2017

Date: July 13, 2017

Place: Sandown Town Hall

Members Present: Paul Carey – *Chair*, Brian Butler – *Vice Chair*, Pam Gaudreau, Jill Winmill,

Members Absent: Kevin Major, Mark Traeger, Tom Sands, Katie Palladino, Terry Knuuttenen

Selectmen’s Liaison: Mr. Jon Goldman: Absent

Environmental Consultant: Bruce Gilday: Absent

Review of Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Winmill made a motion to approve the 6/22/17 minutes as written. Mr. Butler seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

MOTION: Mr. Butler made a motion to approve the 6/22/17 non-public minutes as written. Ms. Gaudreau seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Correspondence

- SE LandTrust walked the Fremont Road Town Forest as part of their easement monitoring. They had no concerns with the property.
- SupplyLines Newsletter

Phillips Pond Milfoil Issue

Jeff Ballentyne, Vice President of the Phillips Pond Association was present.

Ms. Gaudreau noted there has been discussion on the community Facebook page regarding milfoil taking over the pond and thought it would be good for the board to discuss the issue.

Mr. Ballentyne noted that they did a chemical treatment of the entire pond back in 2006 and it took care of about 80% of the weeds. Since then, they have been trying to maintain it by handpicking but it has not been effective and he believes it may have made the issue worse. NHDES predicts the entire pond will be overtaken by milfoil by next year. NHDES offers a grant for the treatment program, but that only provides about 20% of the cost for chemical treatment which would be approximately \$40,000 or more. The Phillips Pond Association only has about \$3,000. The chemical treatments are 80-90% effective, so they recommend spot treatments after that, which would be about \$1,000 per year.

Mr. Butler questioned if there was a monitoring system for boats since they bring the weed in. Mr. Ballentyne noted there are signs at boat launches, but the seeds get pulled into the intake of the engine and are in the coolant, so they spread that way. Washing off the boats is not 100% effective.

44 Ms. Winmill questioned if they could close off the sections that are the worst since seeds are
45 spread when boats go through and chop up the weeds. Mr. Ballentyne noted it could possibly
46 help, but the issue is pretty significant.

47
48 Penny Williams noted that the weeds can wrap around legs and can be a drowning hazard. She
49 added if you can get the pond to 80% clear it is much easier to control it on an annual basis. On
50 Beaver Pond, they have taken significant measures to monitor the growth of the weed and keep it
51 under control.

52
53 Mr. Ballentyne noted they were just trying to spread awareness. The Board suggested they go
54 before the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Ballentyne noted that would be his next step.

55
56 Mr. Ballentyne added that the chemical is safe and specific to milfoil. You can swim in the water
57 within 24 hours and drink it within 21 days.

58
59 Ms. Winmill suggested applying for a Moose Plate Grant. The Selectmen would need to be the
60 ones to apply and the deadline is September 15th.

61
62 Mr. Carey noted ideally it could be a warrant article for the large treatment, then a line item in
63 the budget for yearly maintenance. The Association could take care of the monitoring.

64 65 **Moose Plate Grant**

66 Ms. Winmill noted that Mr. Traeger forwarded her some information on the Moose Plate Grant.
67 There are two options for projects – heritage and conservation. She questioned if the board had
68 suggested projects that could apply. They cannot use the funds for a trail/water crossing.

69
70 Mr. Carey suggested the restoration of the Red Barn.

71
72 Ms. Winmill will do more research on what would qualify.

73 74 **Local Bat Colony**

75 Ms. Gaudreau noted there is a property owner with a barn that has a very large bat colony
76 residing in it. She and Ms. Winmill went on the property to take pictures to try and identify the
77 type of bat. Ms. Winmill consulted with the state and UNH and they believe it is a large brown
78 bat, but will do a site visit to confirm.

79 80 **Monthly Events**

81 The Bee Talk and Tick Talk were both successful and well attended.

82
83 The Raptor show will be held on July 20, 2017 at 7:00 at the town hall. Jane Kelly will bring five
84 birds. The doors will not open until 7:00 for the safety of the birds. Channel 17 will record it.

85
86 Ms. Winmill will host a scavenger hunt in August. She hopes to make it more challenging than
87 the last one. She will have prizes and she has bags and supplies left over from the last one.

88

89 The board will be performing trail maintenance on Wednesday June 19th at the Fremont Road
90 Town Forest at 4:00 p.m.

91

92 **Other Business**

93 Mr. Butler heard from the Liberty Elm organization and the cultures are not showing any
94 indications of disease. Mr. Carey noted his expert that looked at the tree thought the damage was
95 physical—the tree could be root bound or be having issues because of last year’s drought.

96

97 **MOTION:** Mr. Butler made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Winmill seconded the motion. All
98 members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed. MEETING ADJOURNED at
99 approximately 8:18 p.m.

100

101 Respectfully Submitted,



102

103 Andrea Cairns