

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2023**

The April monthly meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at **6:30 PM** at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH.

Present: Chairman, Nat Lucy; Vice Chairman, Dan Lucy; Treasurer, Linda Kearney; Peter Minnich; Corbett Tulip; Rob Adair (via phone); and Recording Secretary, Jacqueline White.

Absent: Larry Huemmler.

Also Attending: Tim Nolin, Forest Land Improvement.

1. Approval of the Minutes for February 8, 2023:

Ms. Linda Kearney made a motion to accept the February 8, 2023 minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Peter Minnich. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

2. Public Comment:

Ms. Kristy (Unknown Last Name) asked if there has been any discussion amongst the Commission to re-work the trail system for winter time next year in Whitaker Woods.

Mr. Nat Lucy said the Commission plans to do a re-cap with the Ski Touring Association in the next few weeks about how the revised trail system in Whitaker Woods went this winter. Mr. Lucy suggests to the Public to submit written comments.

Ms. Lisa Brown asked who makes the decision of which trees to cut down in Whitaker Woods. Ms. Brown said she would like to understand how the decisions have been made.

Mr. Dan Kennedy suggested making a list of all the concerns everyone has with the trails in Whitaker Woods this past winter.

Mr. Paul Militech said when he goes out very early in the morning there is no one on the trails. Mr. Militech stated the walkers don't want to be there when the skiers are out and it is busy. He felt it was over regulated this winter and suggests multi-use trails; walkers on one side and skiers on the other side.

Ms. Carol Stapinski said she felt the person regulating the trails was rude. Ms. Stapinski suggests closing it to walkers when the ski team is using the trails.

Ms. Kim Beals suggested multi-use trails and a citizen's advisory committee to work out the issues in Whitaker Woods. Ms. Kristy (Unknown Last Name) agrees with the idea of multi-use trails.

Ms. Lisa Gibson agrees with Ms. Lisa Brown about the tree cutting.

Mr. Doug Gibson said the clearing and widening of certain trails was very shocking. Mr. Gibson said he would prefer to see the effort put into taking down the dead trees.

Ms. Sue Jones said she was instructed to walk the outer perimeter trail, which was not groomed. Ms. Jones said she feels walking the perimeter trail is dangerous for women and the elderly. Ms. Jones said safety concerns are most important.

Mr. Don Jones said his biggest concern is that the walking trail is four (4) miles long, and there are not enough options for walkers and hikers. Mr. Jones suggested a multi-use trail system.

Ms. Jean Brauel said she agrees with everyone else's comments and suggestions. Ms. Brauel said she would like to see some multi-use trail and would like more access to the middle of the woods.

Ms. Connie Blake stated her biggest concern was going up the quarry trail and she didn't always have time to do the entire perimeter trail. Ms. Blake said she would also like more access to the middle of the woods.

Mr. Thomas Geisler said he is not aware if there was a lot of public input about these decisions in Whitaker Woods. Mr. Geisler stated the group he walks with is very respectful of the trails. He said he experienced a very rude situation with the person regulating the trails.

Ms. Kathy Santafe said she skis, snowshoes, and hikes and understands what the purpose was of the new regulations, but suggests some redesigning for next year.

Mr. Steve Dowling said he is on the Executive Board of the White Mountain Milers, and they have been doing summer series in Whitaker Woods since 1978. Mr. Dowling stated he feels they were disrespected, because they were not asked for their input.

Ms. Kathy Dowling said what bothers her the most is the boulders put across several trails. Ms. Dowling said she will volunteer for any board or commission to help solve these issues for the neighborhood.

Ms. Jen Hall stated she is curious about the data; she is wondering how many people use the trails on a daily basis.

Mr. Nat Lucy reiterated his suggestion for the Public to write their comments and suggestions down.

3. Reports & Other Business:

A. Nomination of Alternates

Mr. Nat Lucy asked if there are any nominations for Alternates. Mr. Lucy said the opening has been advertised in the paper. Mr. Lucy said if the Commission would like he will ask Mr. David Weathers if he is interested in being an Alternate. Mr. Rob Adair said we have seven (7) regular members and two (2) alternate positions.

B. Forest Land Improvement – Tim Nolin

Mr. Tim Nolin presented a Proposed Land Improvement Budget to the Commission. Mr. Nolin said a lot of the items on the budget are the same things we do every year. One new item this year is the newly discovered land on Green Hill Road. Mr. Nolin said the biggest item on the proposed budget is the parking lot expansion at Pudding Pond and Marshall Conservation Area.

There was a brief discussion over the proposed budget.

Mr. Tim Nolin asked about details on the parking lot expansion at Pudding Pond. Mr. Rob Adair said he spoke with Andrew Smith, Public Works Director about excess material from road projects this year. Ms. Jackie White offered to set a meeting up with Public Works Director, Mr. Tim Nolin, and Mr. Nat Lucy at the parking lot at Pudding Pond.

Ms. Linda Kearney made a motion to accept the Proposed Land Improvement Budget; seconded by Mr. Peter Minnich. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Mr. Tim Nolin said he will bring a work agreement into Town Hall to get signed.

C. Selectmen's Report: None

D. Member Roundtable:

Mr. Nat Lucy said he has two activity requests for events in Whitaker Woods, the first is the Miler's Club.

Mr. Nat Lucy made a motion to approve the White Mountain Miler's activity request in Whitaker Woods; seconded by Ms. Linda Kearney. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Mr. Nat Lucy said the White Mountain Community Health Center's activity request is a one-time event of a foot race on May 20th, 2023.

Mr. Nat Lucy made a motion to approve the White Mountain Community Health Center's activity request; seconded by Ms. Linda Kearney. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

The Commission reviewed several Wetland Permits and Forestry Notices.

Mr. Nat Lucy and Mr. Corbett Tulip scheduled a time to walk the trails to view the proposed work for the Hurricane Zone Trail Project.

Next Meeting: The next CCC meeting will be on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH.

Adjourn: Ms. Linda Kearney made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Dan Lucy. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. White', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jacqueline White
Recording Secretary