

**TOWN OF EPSOM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Epsom Town Offices, 1596 Dover Road, Epsom, NH
March 21, 2024, 6:00 PM**

PRESENT

Robyn Sweeney-Blaise, Chair
Chad Decker, Commissioner
Kate Champney, Commissioner
Brenda Butterfield, Commissioner
Samantha Lazo, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary- via telephone
Meadow Wysocki, Board of Selectmen Representative

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sweeney-Blaise called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM.

AGENDA REVIEW

No changes were made to the Agenda.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented. Motion by Ms. Champney. Second by Ms. Lazo. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting of February 15, 2024 – No edits were made. **MOTION: To approve the minutes as presented. Motion by Ms. Champney. Second by Mr. Decker. Motion passed unanimously.**

● ***Town Forest***

Chair Sweeney-Blaise gave an update from the Town Forester; he advised work needs to be done on the ditching around the parking area; the estimate provided was for \$1500.

MOTION: To approve up to \$2000 to the Town Forester for work at the Town Forest. Motion by Chair Sweeney-Blaise. Second by Ms. Champney. Motion passed unanimously.

● ***The Getaway Trail Project***

Chair Blaise stated the Town Forester suggested scheduling a time to walk the Town Forest; the Commissioners discussed potential dates. The Commissioners also discussed planning dates for trail cleanup. Ms. Lazo suggested they try to get more residents involved.

The Commissioners discussed developing a warrant article for next year regarding changing the Town Forest road from Class VI to Trail. Ms. Wysocki suggested speaking with Andrea at the Town Officers to get some research done; Commissioners will look at what other towns have used for trail and road development. Ms. Wysocki suggested classifying it as a Fire Road. Mr. Decker

stated its currently Class VI from Tarleton Road to past the pond; he stated it won't prevent dirt bikes and ATVs from using the road.

● ***EarthDay Cleanup***

Chair Sweeney-Blaise stated she has revised the flyer used last year and will be getting it posted on the Town website, Town Offices and the library. It will also be sent by email to website subscribers.

Ms. Wysocki stated The Common Man at the Circle contacted the Town about the maintenance and upkeep of the memorial at the Circle; The Common Man is interested in participating in the beautification of the area. She clarified the Town has no Memorandum of Understanding with the State of New Hampshire that gives the Town permission to handle the work. She stated it outside of the Town's authority, but she is in communication with the State to come to an agreement; the State has indicated the lights will not be repaired as there are plans for replacement in the future. Ms. Wysocki stated a petition has been presented to have the light pole turned into a flagpole as the flagpole is no longer above the tree line.

Chair Sweeney-Blaise stated she reached out to Bartlett Tree service but has not received a response. She stated she contacted the State nursery regarding saplings for replanting for Earth Day. She will also reach out to Millican Nursery to see if they will donate plants again.

Chair Sweeney-Blaise will also reach out to the Road Agent to let him know the dates for the roadside cleanup.

Ms. Wysocki confirmed there are enough trash bags for distribution; she stated the bags are donated from Northeast Resource Recovery.

● ***Scholarship Ideas***

The Commissioners reviewed a list of camps across the State. Ms. Champney suggested contacting the school to see if any are being promoted or whether any students are planning to attend. Ms. Lazo is going to research pricing and availability for the various camps. Ms. Wysocki suggested contacting the school principal to get the process started.

Other

Ms. Wysocki stated the Parks and Recreation Commission is putting in an order for signs and posts; if the Conservation Commission wants posts, it can be added to the order. It was agreed at least five posts would be needed for the "no camping" signs but a few extra should be kept on hand.

Ms. Wysocki stated she discussed using the old kiosk from Webster Park; the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission indicated the plexiglass cover is broken so would need to be replaced; they will also need wooden posts for mounting it.

The Commissioners discussed the various walking trails around Town and neighboring towns.

The Commissioners discussed concerns about PFOAs in the Water District waters. It was clarified the Water District is separate from the Town; a treatment system may be needed. Ms. Wysocki stated the Board of Selectmen are trying to setup a meeting with the Water Commission.

Next Meeting

April 18, 2024, 6:00 PM.

MOTION: To adjourn. Motion by Chair Blaise. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary