

**TOWN OF EPSOM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Epsom Town Offices
March 16, 2023, 6:00PM**

PRESENT

Chad Decker, Vice Chair
Robyn Blaise, Commissioner
Kate Champney, Commissioner
Meadow Wysocki, Selectmen Representative

ALSO PRESENT

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary
Kim Gillis, resident
Chuck Scheys, resident
Frankie Scheys, resident

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Decker called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

AGENDA REVIEW

No changes were made to the agenda.

Ms. Blaise motioned to accept the agenda as amended. Ms. Champney seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting of December 15, 2022 – No edits were made. **Ms. Champney motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.**

- **Deer Meadow Pond milfoil treatment**

Ms. Blaise outlined the fund balance in the Conservation fund. She stated the commission can decide if they want to use funds for this purpose.

Ms. Gillis outlined the contributions from surrounding towns including Chichester, which has agreed to contribute \$1700. Ms. Blaise asked if the association will work to obtain funds in the next fiscal year. Ms. Gillis stated they will. Mr. Scheys stated because they missed the application cycle for the grant, they just need something to take care of the residual contamination of milfoil. He stated its not their intent that it would be an ongoing expense; he explained they want to complete the process of becoming a 503.C to possibly get support from area businesses. Ms. Gillis stated while ongoing treatment for larger ponds is necessary, she isn't aware of data which indicates ponds that don't have motorized boats, need the ongoing treatments for milfoil. Mr. Scheys stated if they can keep motorized boats off the pond, they

might be able to reduce the contamination. Ms. Champney suggested the Commissioners discuss what they can do this one time. Mr. Scheys stated it's a shallow pond and the State provided advice for manual pulling of the milfoil. Ms. Blaise asked the deadline for the next grant. Mr. Scheys stated it's the end of summer; he stated once there is a commitment of funds, they can move forward.

Ms. Champney made a motion to financially fund the milfoil treatment of Deer Meadow Pond in the amount of \$3,700. Vice Chair Decker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Town Forest Camping Policy**

Ms. Blaise stated she met with Allison recently to discuss transfer of paperwork and policies. She stated there has been discussion in the past that permission is needed from the Town for camping in the Town Forest and outlined the specifics of the policy. She stated it needs to be formalized with details in a policy. Ms. Wysocki suggested signs be placed at the forest as well to provide directions for obtaining permission. Ms. Blaise stated she will begin working on a draft policy, utilizing the template of the Webster Park policies. Ms. Wysocki suggested contacting the State Prison for the signs.

- **Town Forest Kiosk/Updated Maps**

Ms. Blaise stated the updates for the maps will be dependent on their findings from a walkthrough. Mr. Decker stated he hasn't heard anything from the Town Forester in regard to logging and doesn't expect anything under some snow has melted. Mr. Decker stated he has been gathering information on different kiosks being used by other parks; he stated he expects the cost to be a few hundred dollars. He stated there is also the option of using a QR code which will bring up digital maps.

- **Earth Day spring Cleanup**

The Commissioners discussed possible dates. Ms. Wysocki suggested doing dates Thursday to Tuesday; she confirmed the Highway Department will collect the bagged trash. It was agreed to set the dates for April 20 to April 27. Ms. Champney stated she will forward the information to the school. Ms. Wysocki stated she will check on the bags to be made available at the library for pickup by residents.

The Commissioners discussed the annual tree, plant and flower sale.

Other:

Ms. Blaise stated she is working on recruiting some more volunteers to join the Commission.

Ms. Wysocki presented the budget that was passed by voters, for review by the Commissioners.

Next Meeting

April 20, 2023, 6:00PM.

Ms. Blaise motioned to adjourn. Ms. Champney seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary

APPROVED