

CHICHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting MINUTES
August 14, 2023

Present: Bob Mann, Zack Boyagian, Blaze Konefal, Dawn Marshall, Jeff Mayne , Gordon Jones

Call to order: 6:37PM

Review/approval of minutes of July 10 meeting – The July minutes were approved with a few typos to be corrected by Zack.

Mail review: Approval received from the Private Land Habitat Improvement Program for a small grant that pays for the yearly brush hogging of the Shaw Pasture. Letter from DES about Eversource impacting wetlands while replacing some poles in a transmission line right of way: no action needed on our part.

Treasurer's Report: The town Treasurer submitted a letter clarifying the amount of money in the Shirley Waters' portion of the Conservation Commission fund (\$83,145.60) and the rest of the Conservation Commission fund (\$269,226.51). A motion was passed to: "Request the Chichester Town Treasurer obtain two Certificates of Deposit, if the interest rate is 3% or greater, with a term of up to a year, for a total of \$150,000. \$75,000 to come from the Shirley Waters portion of the Conservation Commission funds and \$75,000 to come from the remainder of the Conservation Commission fund."

Deer Meadow Pond: There was a discussion about mil-foil treatment at the pond. Zack was unable to attend the Epsom CCC meeting to discuss this further with them.

VVCA Easement : Bob gave a report on the progress of completing the easement at the Valley View Conservation Area. Our lawyer reported the easement title has now been renegotiated and recorded by the owners and the VA mortgage has been renegotiated. Bob contacted the Department of Environmental Services to make sure all conditions for the closing are being met. Their requirements include the easement paperwork being reviewed again by the Attorney General's office due to a snowmobile trail on the property. The trail has been abandoned by the NH Trail Dawgs, the snowmobile club that had maintained it, and a letter from their representative Kevin Gagne is being submitted to the Attorney General's office to explain this. A final budget also has to be submitted. The original appraisal done in 2019 is no longer valid as an appraisal has to be done within a year of the transfer of the title. An estimate of \$1,800 for a new appraisal has been received from Capital Appraisal, the company who did the 2019 appraisal. **A motion was passed:** "To have Capital Appraisal undertake a new appraisal of the Valley View Conservation Area at a cost not to exceed \$2,000." The total budget for the easement project is \$178,000. The town Treasurer will pay this cost and then apply for reimbursement from the two grants that have been approved to help cover the cost, \$64,000 from DES and \$24,000 from the Dept. of Agriculture.

Shaw Pasture: There was a discussion about invasive plant control, including purple loose strife in the pond, and poison ivy around the parking lot and along the road which can block visibility when exiting the parking lot.

Easement Stewardship: The state wrote up a report about the no hunting without permission signs on a local easement. Blaze will write a letter to the state about discussion from the resulting meeting with the land owners.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:54PM

Next Meeting: Sept. 11, 6:30PM. Zack will be out of town and will not be able to attend.

Minutes prepared by D. Marshall

Minutes are not Approved until signed.


approved
Oct 9, 2023