

**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2023**

Members Present: Charles Page, Mark Chaffee, and Anthony Pucci

Members Absent: Heather Durgin, David Krause

Alternate Members Present: None.

Others Present: None

Chair Page opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Minutes –Chaffee/Page moved and seconded to approve the draft minutes of the September 20, 2023, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business – Charlie reported that he has retrieved the “Be Kind to Knowles Pond” sign that had been torn down during the year. He plans to repair it and build a frame that may secure it better and reinstall it in the spring.

Old Business – The Knowles easement was visited by Charlie and Tony. They were unable to speak with the landowner during the visit. They were able to make contact later and had a good discussion. She voiced her concern with the brush not being removed from the dam. Charlie noted that the Town has since cut and removed all brush from the dam. Many thanks to our town crew.

Many thanks to Charlie who arranged for the Town to deliver a load of roadside fill to create a berm at the boat launch at Knowles Pond. The intent is to stop the water, silt, and road salt from running down the hill and directly into the pond. The berm allows the water to pass through vegetation and thus be somewhat filtered prior to entering the pond. Some additional ditching may be necessary in the spring.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of establishing a no-salt or low-salt area on the road in front of the pond. We will communicate with the Town Administrator to see how to address this.

There were no updates regarding the conservation properties.

Public Input – There were no members of the public in attendance.

Other Business – Discussion ensued regarding the rope swing at Knowles Pond and the issue of Town liability and potential removal of the tree. There was concern noted as to the unintended consequences of such an action. After some further discussion it was agreed to mirror the Selectboards position on this issue as stated in their June 20, 2023, meeting and take no action at this time.

The project to repair Route 3 in Tilton was discussed. It appears from correspondence that the State is very aware of both Town’s concerns regarding the river flow and potential impacts and intends to seek the input of stakeholders prior to final plans being developed.

Conservation Corner – Charlie will get a few articles together and send to Stephaine.

Adjournment – There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Minutes approved March 20, 2024