

**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2023**

Members Present: Mark Chaffee, Charles Page, David Krause and Anthony Pucci.

Members Absent: Heather Durgin.

Alternate Members Present: None.

Others Present: Jeff Evans, Director of Conservation, Five Rivers Conservation Trust.

Vice Chair Chaffee opened the meeting at 7:02 PM with introductions.

The members agreed to reorder the agenda so as to start with Five Rivers Trust. Jeff Evans introduced the purpose of Five Rivers, noting that they had recently completed a strategic plan and are now developing a regional conservation plan. Their goal is to receive input from all partner communities and requested that the commission complete an on-line survey and requested that members attend a planning meeting in Concord on June 5th. The members, having been provided with paper copies of the survey, worked through the survey with Mr. Evans and sought clarification on several questions. After some further general discussion, Mr. Evans left the meeting, and the members went through all the questions and assigned answers. It was agreed that Tony would complete the on-line survey with the responses developed.

Election of Officers—General discussion ensued as to the desire to rotate the duties on an annual basis to share the load. It was agreed that the officer positions being appointed would be a Chair and Vice Chair. Tony would continue to serve as Secretary. Chaffee/Krause moved and seconded to appoint Charles Page as Chair. Motion passed unanimously. Chaffee/Pucci moved and seconded to appoint David Krause as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes —Page/Krause moved and seconded to approve the draft minutes of the March 15, 2023, meeting. - Motion passed with 3 votes in favor and 1 abstention. The members reviewed the April 17, 2023, minutes of the combined meeting of Tilton, Sanbornton, and Northfield Conservation Commissions. The members agreed to the accuracy of the minutes as taken and recorded by the Secretary of the Tilton commission.

Town Clean Up Day — Commission members noted the effort and will meet at the Park and Go at 8:00 AM for assignments.

Conservation Area Updates — It was noted that there were tires left at the parking lot on Rand Road as well as a rubbish barrel in the water at the boat launch.

Eversource Tree Limbing Application —The members reviewed the Eversource application for the replacement of utility poles and transmission lines from Franklin to Concord a portion of which runs through Northfield. After review and general discussion, it was agreed that the documentation provided in the application was consistent with the presentation made by Eversource and VBF at the March meeting.

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

Other Business – The members discussed the pending slope and guardrail replacement on route 3 from the Cumberland Farms in Tilton to the Salmon Run Conservation area. Tony shared some diagrams of draft plans provided to the Tilton Conservation Commission indicating the proposed changes. These draft plans indicate a narrowing of the river to accommodate a widening of the road, remediation of the existing retaining wall with a slope at a 2:1 grade and installation of new guard rails. There appears to have been no discussion or notice provided to the Town of Northfield regarding the potential impact these repairs might have. Specifically, it was noted that during periods of high water it is likely a good portion of the Granite Mills shoreline would be underwater, and that potential flooding of the Tilton Island could also result. Additionally, the parking lot of the mill on Granite Street could also be impacted. The commission has contacted Arin Mills, Sr Environmental Manager for DOT who has confirmed that the project planning has been delayed and will not resume until later this fall. We have requested that we be contacted once the planning process for this project resumes so that we may provide input.

Members discussed easements that we have and the process of monitoring those easements. Dave indicated that he believes there are only 2 easements. This will be confirmed with Stephanie and documentation obtained so ongoing monitoring can be conducted.

Adjournment – There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Minutes approved June 21, 2023