

**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2022**

Members Present: Chair Heather Durgin, Vice Chair Mark Chaffee, Charlie Page, Tony Pucci
Others Present: Jason Durgin

Chair Durgin opened the meeting at 7:02pm and introductions were made.

Minutes – Page/Chaffee moved and seconded to accept the minutes of December 13, 2021 – **Motion Passed**

“Conservation Corner” for the Northfield News – The board discussed possible topics for the next article which is due by January 25th. After some discussion, Pucci volunteered to draft an article relating to coyote mating season and potential risk to pets.

Chair Durgin indicated that an annual report for inclusion into the Town Report is due by February 3rd.

Discussion ensued regarding the board’s water testing obligations and past practices. Chaffee will revisit discussions previously held with Sarah Steiner of NH DES and forward the email conversation to the board members. Page offered to document a procedure for testing once information is received. It was also discussed to consider outsourcing this testing if the board’s budget can support it.

Trail/Conservation Properties update – Chaffee walked the Richard P. Smart Trail and noticed little activity since the most recent snow. He noted no evidence of campers. Page reported that the Sotir and Knowles trails are clear and active.

Other Business – Members reviewed a letter from NH DES regarding a permit-by-notification application that was incomplete. The letter was addressed to the logger making the application. The DES copied the board as a normal course of business. After some discussion it was agreed that no further action is required by the board at this time.

Members reviewed a letter from Mary Lee representing the Upper Merrimack River Advisory Committee. She is looking for a volunteer from Northfield to serve on the committee. Chaffee volunteered to follow up with her.

Members reviewed an email response from John Viar, Fisheries Biologist, NH Fish and Game. His email outlined answers to questions previously posed by the members relating to the potential stocking of Knowles Pond with trout. His responses were clear and addressed several concerns held by some of the members. It was agreed that the installation of fishing line recycle bins needs to be completed prior to the spring fishing season. Chaffee volunteered to continue working with Tilton Conservation Commission to get one installed before spring. After some further discussion Page/Durgin moved and seconded a motion to proceed with the stocking of Knowles Pond with trout in 2022 on a trial basis to be reviewed by the board at the January 2023 meeting. Motion passed with three in favor and one abstention.

The board discussed ongoing communications and resulted in all members’ present sharing email and phone contact numbers.

Adjournment – There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.
Minutes approved on February 14, 2022