

**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2022**

Members Present: Chair Heather Durgin, Vice Chair Mark Chaffee, David Krause, Charles Page and Anthony Pucci.

Members Absent: None, therefore a quorum of members was present.

Alternate Members Present: None.

Others Present: Russ Rucker from Wilcox & Barton, Dennis Galimberti, Facilities Manager, Spaulding Academy & Family Services.

Chair Durgin opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and introductions were made.

Minutes –Chaffee/Page moved and seconded to accept the minutes of March 14, 2022 – Motion Passed

Spaulding Academy & Family Services – Wetlands Permit Application Review – After introductions, Mr. Galimberti, gave an overview of services provided by the school and a brief outline of the plans to expand the building to include more space for classrooms, offices, dining, and kitchen capabilities along with increased parking spaces. Mr. Rucker with the firm of Wilcox & Barton gave a review of the site plan for the addition and described how those changes will impact the existing wetlands. Mr. Rucker in response to questions noted that they have already met with the Planning Board and expect work to begin this summer (2022). During discussion with the Commission members, it was noted that the only encroachment from this expansion is on the man-made wetlands created by the previously constructed school building. After some further discussion, a motion was made by David Krause: “The Conservation Commission recommends that the Planning Board approve the special use permit due to the fact that the culvert placement created the wetlands.” The motion was seconded by Mark Chaffee and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Rucker and Galimberti, left the meeting.

Beaver Removal Options – Chair Durgin shared with the members, that residents of Sandogardy Pond have complained about the damage caused by beaver dams and associated flooding of private property. Discussion ensued as to the various options to address the issue. Vice Chair Mark Chaffee shared research he has done regarding the placement of devices designed to muffle the sound of running water and thereby result in beaver not feeling the need to “repair” a leaking dam. These devices know as “beaver limiters or beaver baffles” are designed to be installed in areas to protect against road flooding and general property flooding. Further discussion ensued and it was noted that trapping or otherwise destroying the beaver in the impacted area is a short term solution at best and the Commission agreed that a longer term more permanent solution should be considered if possible. Chaffee agreed to discuss this further with NH Fish and Game and see if any other local municipalities have had any experience with this type of beaver solution or what other options might be available.

The Commission also discussed boating speed limits on Sandogardy Pond. Chair Durgin will research this further and share at a future meeting.

Clean Up Days – Chair Durgin shared her desire to have a spring clean up day as well as the normal fall clean up day. It was agreed that Saturday April 23, we will meet at the Town Hall at 9:00 am for trail and property clean up.

“Conservation Corner” for the Northfield News – Vice Chair Chaffee agreed to develop an article regarding beaver controls for the May edition which is due by April 25.

Trail/Conservation Properties update – General discussion ensued regarding all the trails and properties with no specific actions or issues noted.

Other Business – Mr. Page discussed membership and term expirations and it was noted that Sterling Blackey has been named an alternate member and Anthony Pucci has been appointed a regular member.

Next meeting is Monday May 9, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment – There being no further business Krause/Durgin moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm. – Motion passed

Minutes Approved as amended 5/9/2022