

**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2022**

**Members Present:** Vice Chair Mark Chaffee, Charles Page, and Anthony Pucci.

**Members Absent:** Heather Durgin, David Krause.

**Alternate Members Present:** None.

**Others Present:** Northfield resident, Susan Hilliard

Vice Chair Chaffee opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

**Minutes** –Page/Chaffee moved and seconded to approve the draft minutes of the July 20, 2022 - Motion passed.

**“Conservation Corner” for the Northfield News** – After discussion it was agreed to rerun an article from previous years entitled, “The Best View in Town,” for the September edition.

**Trail/Conservation Properties update** – Charlie gave an update on recent developments at Knowles Pond, noting that the Road Agent and crew removed the rope swing and ladder at the swimming rock and had a lengthy discussion regarding the relocation of existing road signage and addition of a Slow Children sign near the dry hydrant. The Road Agent agreed with all the requested recommendations but has yet to complete any of the changes. Charlie noted that staffing shortages and existing projects may be causing the delay. Police were contacted regarding overnight campers, and they have visited and removed at least two overnight campers. Members have seen no further incidents of overnight camping since mid-July. Mark reported that he removed the tree ladder on the Rocky Top trail. It was noted that trails are fairly clean with some brush removal needed.

**Other Business** - The members welcomed Susan Hilliard who shared her concern with parking on the North side of the road as well as several instances of bathers using soap and shampoos. She also was concerned about the risk to children swimming so closely to the road. She questioned whether there has ever been any discussion about making access to the area for Northfield residents only. Discussion ensued regarding the challenges of enforcing such a practice and how other towns enforce resident only restrictions to their respective town facilities. Discussion continued as to the impact of Highland Mountain Bike Park on the Knowles Pond area. Charlie noted that the owner of the bike park has apparently set up a portion of his parking lot for overnight camping, however, provides no toilets or bathing facilities. Members discussed the potential benefits of meeting with the owner of the bike park to let him know our concerns and see where the discussion goes. It was agreed to add signage discouraging the use of shampoos and soaps. It was also agreed to communicate our concerns relating to the abuse of Knowles Pond to selectmen and our suspicions relating to the bike park overflow creating some of those problems to see what steps they might suggest.

Mark shared information he received from a former member noting various contacts used for the testing of Sandogardy Pond. Members also reviewed a report received from NH Division of Public Health Services. The report was not self-explanatory and therefore it was agreed to review the website provided to try and understand the results.

**Adjournment** – There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

**Minutes approved October 19, 2022**