

**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**

Members Present: Chair Heather Durgin, Charlie Page, David Krause

Others Present: Aimee Dearborn and Jeff Marcoux

Chair Durgin opened the meeting at 7:01pm

- **Minutes**

Reviewed the minutes of July 19, 2021 & August 09, 2021, the board had no quorum to vote on approving the minutes. Continue both meeting minutes to next meeting in October.

- **“Conservation Corner”**- board asks what we ran for an article last year in October. Ms. Dearborn stated she would find out and notify the board via email.

- **Trail / Conservation Properties update:** Cleanup day is scheduled for September 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Mrs. Durgin notifies the board that she contacted the Boy Scout master and informed him of the cleanup day. She is unsure if they will be helping but she at least put it out there to them. Board discusses what trails need to be walked, they agree River Trail and Smart should be done. Mr. Page states that Knowles Pond and Sotir he walks every day along with residents Tony & Gail Pucci from 14 Haggett Farm Road have been assisting him with keeping those trails clean from debris. Mr. Page also mentions that Mr. Pucci is showing interest in joining the board and may attend the meeting next month. With their combined efforts they have cleared Rocky Top and Sotir of downed trees as well. He requests the town send a thank you letter to the couple for volunteering. The board asks what they will do with the trash once done, talking about taking it to the transfer station or in the parking lots. Board asks if Highway Department can pick up the bags. Ms. Dearborn told the board she would discuss with Stephanie Giovannucci how to dispose of the trash then notify the board via email. Mrs. Durgin says she has a box of gloves for the volunteers and Mr. Page states he has trash bags that he will provide as well on Saturday.

- **Other Business:**

Jeff Marcoux who works for the NHDES as a supervisor for the Water Shed Department attends the meeting to give the board some information on what can be done for Sandogardy Ponds issues. Mr. Marcoux tells the board it may benefit them to join the Volunteer Assessment Program (VLAP) which hosts workshops and training conducted by VLAP biologists to ensure volunteers are following protocols for collecting data. Mr. Marcoux tells the board a Watershed based plan would be a great resource due to the 9 elements of identification. It would be categorized and opens the door for grant funding. The clean water act pays 60% of the cost of repairs such as run offs, culverts or erosion. Mr. Page asks if this Watershed plan includes all bodies of water in Northfield, Mr. Marcoux states one body of water at a time. This is a lengthy process since the Watershed Plan is so detailed. Range of expense per Watershed Plan is \$50,000 - \$60,000 this would position the town to apply for the loan that may be zero interest or principal forgiveness. The plan is important because it gives a detailed road map to what is happening in that body of water. Mr. Krause reviews on his phone the Lake Warren Watershed Plan to review what it includes which has 121 pages. Mr. Marcoux also mentions a federal-state partnership with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) which provides communities with low cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructures. Mr. Page asks if there is a way to identify a septic system if it's failing, Mr. Marcoux states it's very hard to get residents to cooperate with towns due to cost. One way to identify a failure is putting dye down a drain and see where it comes out. Not all residents are even aware of where their waste goes. The grant money may come after the Watershed Plan is in place. Mr. Page tries to understand the cost benefit relationship grant money down the road. Mr. Marcoux reminds the board this is volunteer efforts so you get out of it what you put in. This takes years to fix and is a long term project but is successful. He states maybe you cannot do the plan now but the data that has been collected from the body of water would be helpful if the board decides to do one. Sandogardy Pond is on the states list of impaired bodies of water. The board asks where to find that information, Mr. Marcoux says he will email Ms. Dearborn the link where you can view all bodies of water in the state of NH. Board and Mr. Marcoux mention Sara Steiner the Program Coordinator with NHDES is a good contact to have.

- **Loon Update:** Mr. Page reports 3 loons have been seen in different location of the pond. He is unsure if they are paired up or if the original female is back. The board is looking forward to hearing Mr. Chaffee's reports on the loons if he has any at all. Mr. Page mentions contacting Howey from NH Fish & Game about stocking Knowles Pond which may bring in more loons and fisherman.

There being no other business meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM
MEETING MINUTES APPROVED ON OCTOBER 18, 2021