

**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2018**  
**MINUTES**

Members Present: Kevin Fife Chairman, Christina Beadle, Sterling Blackey, Charlie Page, Heather Durgin, Mark Chaffe

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm

**Meeting Minutes – Beadle/Blackey** moved to accept the minutes as written. **Motion Passed.**

**Conservation Corner** – New articles for October will be “Best View in Town” to be run on October 5 and October 12, 2018. “Winter Visitors” article will run on October 19 and October 26, 2018. Ideas for articles for November include the migration of the chick loons and also an article about White Tail Deer in rutting season.

**UNH Genetic Analysis for Sandogardy Pond** – Discussion regarding the year end wrap up for the results. The results from UNH indicate that it was absent for human and canine contamination, opted not to test for water fowl because they have not been spotted on the pond. There were consistent trace amounts of human contamination. The E-Coli testing for August 15<sup>th</sup> spiked to 579, with the state standard being 80, the pond cleared on August 22, 2018. Historically, Sandogardy Pond tests high during a dry hot spell. This was unusual for Sandogardy Pond because we just had a significant rain event. The biologist John stated the rain was very turbulent, everything was washing into the pond and mixing in at the same time. The most significant trace samples indicated were human. The new testing will be performed in 2019 when we have a dry spell. Testing can be done by the entry of the pond and the exit of the pond, some testing will be done in other locations around the pond. UNH has performed genetic testing which costs about \$200.00.

**Expenditures for Pond Testing** – Excess amount of expenditures for pond testing will be paid either by the trust or general fund. VLAP has overcharged the Conservation Commission Committee for testing performed on Knowles Pond, only one test was performed but we were charged for two tests. Christina will contact Amanda at NHDES to discuss the charges.

**Trail Update – Everett Davidson** cleaned Devil’s Den, we would like to thank Everett for helping to keep the Conservation Area beautiful.

The Board Members discussed work that they have performed on the trails including clearing of downed trees and cleaning of the trails in the Northfield area.

**Knowles Pond Management Plan** – Discussion amongst the board regarding the management plan and Knowles Pond Conservation Area Ordinance. The proposed changes are as follows, changes must be brought before the Board of Selectmen for approval:

**Changes to the Ordinance:** Second paragraph reads “Town of Northfield’s Friends of Knowles Pond Stewardship Management Committee” requested change would be “Town of Northfield Conservation Commission.”

Third paragraph indicates activities that will be prohibited, under number 5, after camping we would like to add fireworks and consumption of alcohol.

## **Changes to the Knowles Pond Conservation Area Stewardship/Management Plan:**

**Under Permitted Uses** – Second line states “observation from dawn until sunset”, requested change would read “observation from dawn until dusk”.

On line four after horseback riding, we request to add “mountain biking” and after “snowshoeing” we would request to add “ice skating”.

On line six it states “Snowmobiles and ATV use is limited to one designated trail”, the requested change would read “Snowmobiles and ATV use is limited to designated trails”.

**Under Non-Permitted Uses** – On the third line, it reads “littering, fires, camping, tenting or structures of any kind will not be permitted.”, the requested change would read “littering, fires, fireworks, alcohol consumption, camping, tenting or structures of any kind will not be permitted.”

On line four it reads “without prior approval of the Stewardship Committee”, requested change would read “without prior approval of the Conservation Commission”

**Under Stewardship:** It reads “A Stewardship/Management Committee” requested change would read “The Conservation Commission”.

**Under History:** On the fourth line it reads “Recommendation of the Stewardship/Management Committee”, requested change would read “recommendation of the Conservation Commission”.

**Under Education:** On the third line it reads “Stewardship/Management Committee”, requested change would read “Conservation Commission”

Sotir Conservation Area Stewardship/Management Plan – Annual Review to be done at our October Conservation Commission Meeting scheduled for October 24, 2018 at 7 pm.

Sterling asked regarding the new campground on Sargent Street that is proposed by Steven Partridge. An Application for Variance has been submitted to the Zoning Board due to Building Permit being denied because of the zoning. The Zoning Board hearing is scheduled for September 24, 2018 at 7 pm.

Forest Notes Magazine – Board discussed an article in the magazine regarding an easement along the Merrimack River which is off of Oak Hill Road.

Stromsen – Discussion on the cutting of trees on Mr. Stromsen’s property.

## **Other Business**

Sandogardy Pond – There will be new beach sand coming in the spring/summer of 2019.

NH Association of Conservation Commission Annual Conference – Any members that would like to attend, please let Kevin know.

There being no other business meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

**Meeting Minutes Approved October 23, 2018**