

Jaffrey Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
July 20, 2022

Present: Carolyn Garretson (Chair), Tom Ahlborn-Tsu, Bill Graf, Charlie Koch, David Peragallo, Elizabeth Webster, Kevin Chamberlain (Select Board Rep.)

Absent: Aaron Abitz, Kathy Batchelder, Jim Bearce, Pam Armstrong, Serra Gauthier, Michael George, Fran McBride

Guests: Bob Linck, Caitlin Belcher of Northeast Wilderness Trust

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM. The meeting took place at the Jaffrey Town Offices.  
The meeting was called to order by Carolyn Garretson, Chair.

1. Northeast Wilderness Trust (NEWT) has agreed to partner the Conservation Commission in the conservation of Carey Park/Children's Woods, in accordance with the terms of the ARM Grant. NEWT is committed to unmanaged tracts, allowing forests to return to a wild condition. Most of their properties are large acreages, away from population centers. NEWT refers to this as "Wild for All," and considers CP/CW as an educational opportunity, introducing the concept of wilderness within the town.

Trails would be maintained for hikers, safety hazards to visitors would be mitigated, and a management plan would be created to try to anticipate issues (invasive species, flooding, etc.). Key features, such as Hilltop Farm and waterfowl observation posts would be retained. This management plan would be subject to regular review and, if necessary, revision.

A discussion pursued regarding estimated value of standing timber on the property if all potential timber is cut. If NEWT is chosen as a partner, timber harvest would not be possible. There is a possibility of recouping a portion of it through the sale of carbon credits when that market solidifies. NEWT would act as negotiators in such a process. Members also discussed other potential values of the property as old growth including education and recreation.

NEWT would require an evaluation by a wetlands scientist before proceeding. They have engaged Jeff Littleton. The funds from the ARM grant could cover this cost, as well as the one-time Monitoring Fee. To be determined: whether Monadnock Conservancy, holders of the easement on Children's Woods, approves an overlay easement; whether a survey is required to complete the transaction. The Conservation Commission would be responsible for the legal fees of the Town Attorney.

Motion: To schedule a Special Meeting on July 26, 2022 at 6 PM to discuss NEWT as an acceptable partner for the ARM grant, in accordance with the Motion of May 18, 2022: *To continue discussion until next meeting, or until such time as the pre-proposal is accepted, to determine whether the full proposal should be submitted, and with which partner.* Passed.

2. Minutes of the June meeting were approved.

3. Ongoing

A. Riverfest. Set up at 9- 9:30. DP and FMB 10-12, CDG and KB 12-2. All members are welcome to help.

B. CPCA. Boardwalk is nearly finished. CK will lead a guided tour on 7/30 at 2 PM, at close of Riverfest.

C. Downtown Revitalization. Link to citizen proposals will be send by email.

D. ZBA. Mountain Zone permit denied.

E. PB. Stonybrook sewer extension approved, pending SB approval of special assessment. Millipore approved subject to plan review.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM. Special Meeting 7/26 at 6PM. Next scheduled meeting is August 17, 2022 at 7PM, at the Town Offices.