



MINUTES:

Meeting date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Location: Jaffrey Town Hall

Members Present: Thomas Ahlborn-Hsu, Carolyn D. Garretson, David Peragallo, Elizabeth Webster

Alternates Present: Pam Armstrong, Fran McBride

Select Board Representative: Kevin Chamberlain

Guest: Chris Guida, Wetlands Scientist for Fieldstone Land Consultants

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Tom Ahlborn-Hsu, Chair.

Motion: PA, seconded by FMcB, to approve the prior meeting minutes. Approved.

Mr. Guida presented information on the Highland Ave. development. The proposed entrance necessarily crosses a wetlands adjacent to the road. The plan calls for it to traverse the narrowest point, and to have impoundments to mitigate stormwater runoff. Because there is, as yet, no subdivision plan to submit, and because this is subject to a standard review, he is seeking a waiver. Mr. Guida is asking the ConComm to draft a letter of support to be sent to the Wetlands Bureau.

Motion: To draft a letter detailing the following: traversing the wetlands is required for access; the roadway is designed to have the least impact; the wetlands is not high value, and probably results from the raised roadbed of Highland Ave.; the ConComm has no issues with the plan at this point. CDG, seconded by EW. Approved. TAH to draft the letter.

Mail/Email: No mail

Financial: Account balance of \$128,967, of which \$52,000 is committed to payment for the NRI.

Grey Goose: TAH, BG, and CK walked the site, finding no alterations of substance. BG has drafted the report.

Children's Woods/Carey Park: CDG and TAH met with representatives of NEWT. They are still pursuing funding, and have asked for some additional Town-held property to be included. A letter from CDG has been prepared for the Select Board, attached below. Motion: To submit this proposal to the Select Board for Town approval. DP, seconded CDG. Approved.

Moose Plate Grant: The New Hampshire State Conservation Committee (SCC) announces the opening of the fiscal year 2024 Conservation Moose Plate Grants. Grant application information and program requirements are available on the SCC website [SCC.nh.gov](https://scc.nh.gov). Grant funds are available for projects that support and promote programs and partnerships that protect, restore, and enhance the state's valuable natural resources. Grant applications are due on

September 15, 2023. Awards will be announced in December 2023, and funding will be available to successful applicants in July 2024.

KC asked whether these funds could be applied to the NRI.

NRI: The initial mapping is almost completed. Jeff Littleton expects to have a demonstrable product for next month's meeting. He has asked for supplementary information from the files.

Downtown: SB received a brownfields report on the W.W. Cross property. A decision whether or not to take ownership will be made on the 28th. Should the property transfer to the Town, grants will be sought for the removal of the building and topsoil, preparatory to potential sale. Jo Anne is working on EV charging stations to be installed in the Blake St. parking lot. KC feels that location may put them at risk of vandalism.

ZBA: Highland Ave. See above.

PB: No concerns for ConComm.

250th Parade: Float participants will meet at the High School parking lot 9:30 Saturday, August 19.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 PM.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 7 PM at the Town Offices.

To: Jaffrey Select Board

From: Jaffrey Conservation Commission

Re: Conservation easement on Children's Woods & Carey Park approval

The Jaffrey Conservation Commission has initiated a new conservation venture in conjunction with the Northeast Wilderness Trust with a "Forever Wild" conservation

easement on Children's Park/Carey Woods in downtown Jaffrey. This will preserve this 125+ acre jewel of a property for recreational and educational use for generations to come.

In reviewing the tax maps it has become evident that we would like to include several other adjacent parcels in the easement, with the approval and acceptance of NEWT.

The parcels we want to include are the following:

- the two parcels on the west side of the rail trail that have the same number as Children's woods – 239-159,
- the 2 parcels included in the Carey Park area of 240-102,
- and parcel 239-279 just north of Red Dam and 240-1, which is contiguous but on the west side of 202, along Mountain Stream and Lacy Road.

Forever-wild management of this property will secure the protection of the headwater stream and wetland that is hydrologically connected to the Contoocook River so that this land will be permanently protected from continued fragmentation and possible water quality degradation.

The Conservation Commission is requesting that the Select Board approve this request. Thank you in advance for your attention and support.