

# **MINUTES**

## **NEW DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **29 November 2022**

**Present:** Commission members Ron Gehl (Chair), Victor Piekarski, Curtis Richard, Mark Sullivan (via Zoom), and alternate members Bill Malay and Bob Craycraft.

Mr. Gehl called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and appointed Mr. Malay and Mr. Craycraft as voting members.

Public attendance: None

#### **Public Input**

None.

#### **New Business**

**Discussion of conservation options for Town-owned parcel on Shaws Pond:** Chair Gehl read an email received from resident Maureen Knepp, regarding placing this 52-acre tax-deeded property (Tax Map 209, Lot 46) into conservation. A warrant article at Town Meeting 2022 was approved requiring town voters to approve any sale of this parcel rather than Board of Selectmen. The property consists largely of steep slopes to the west of Shaws Pond. Conservation options were discussed, with only two practical options for permanent protection of town-owned property: 1) establishment of permanent deed restrictions or 2) establishment of a conservation easement on the property with a third party. Chair Gehl noted that placement of a conservation easement for this type of property typically requires a budget of \$40,000 or more, given survey, legal and stewardship costs, etc. Chair Gehl offered to look into costs for placing deed restrictions that would effectively conserve natural resources of the parcel. It was also noted that site development options were extremely limited due to site access issues and steep slopes, and immediate action on a petitioned warrant article was not warranted without a detailed plan to achieve permanent conservation via easement or deed restriction.

#### **Review of Wetlands Permit Applications**

None (Shoreland/Wetland)

#### **Review of Minutes**

**Mr. Piekarski made a motion to approve the October 25, 2022 minutes. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by Mr. Piekarski, Mr. Gehl and Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Richard, Mr. Craycraft and Mr. Malay abstained.**

#### **Review of Mail**

DES correspondence regarding permit approvals and denials.

#### **Other Business**

Mention of Birch Ridge Community Forest and Thompson property easement monitoring.

**At 7:40 PM Mr. Malay made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Craycraft seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Gehl