

Town of Randolph

Conservation Commission

Minutes of February 16, 2023 meeting

Members Present: Gary Newfield, Jennifer Barton-Scaranza, Walter Graff, Nathan Peters, Philip Guiser

Members Excused: Brandy Capozello (alternate)

Public: Michele Cormier (Selectman's Representative)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Gary Newfield

Nate moved to approve the minutes of the 10/20/22 minutes as written, seconded by Phil. All voted yes.

Work done at the Schaen Property

Gary Newfield stated that the primary purpose of the meeting was to inform the CC (Randolph Conservation Commission) and the general public of the matters concerning the construction of a driveway and clearing for a house lot on the piece of property just to the west of Bowman Inn on Rt. 2. The driveway exceeds Town ordinances addressing length and maximum slope and crosses a stream and a small wetland. This work was completed late in the fall of 2022.

The owner submitted the paperwork to the Randolph Town Clerk for the necessary dredge and fill wetlands permit from the State Dept. of Environmental Services on 1/30/23. As protocol instructs, the Town Clerk gave copies of the application to the heads of the Planning Board, the CC, the Selectmen, and to the Town Office. At that point, the CC had 14 days to comment on the application or request a hold from NH DES. Gary asked for a hold of the approval until DES could conduct an inspection in the spring when the snow is gone and the site can be seen. He also filed a complaint based on the work being done prior to the submission of the request for a permit. The work at this site and the request for a wetlands permit were both done under the direction of Beaver Brook Planning and Design, LLC of Colebrook. The CC reviewed and discussed the permit application.

Gary also informed the CC that In Dec. 2022 the Randolph Board of Adjustment denied an application by Mr. Schaen for a retroactive variance to the Randolph Land Use Ordinance regarding the length and slope of a driveway. The Planning Board will be meeting to discuss what the owner must do to bring this property into compliance with Town regulations. They will be asking the CC for input before they decide on the issuance of any permits.

The CC membership expressed support for the actions taken by Gary. A discussion took place focused on how to prevent something like this from happening again. Michelle felt that the Selectmen needed to play a key role.

Bowman Wildlife Crossing Update

Gary reported that a memorandum of understanding was agreed upon by the NH Audubon and the NH Dept. of Transportation which outlined the plan to move forward with an evaluation of the proposed sites and possible plans for the tunnel crossing. NH Audubon has issued a Request for Proposals for contractors to undertake this evaluation and draft possible design plans. This follows the procedures for the study of possible wildlife crossings outlined during the presentation made to the CC during the 10/22 meeting that we voted to support.

Adjournment: On a motion from Jenn, seconded by Nate, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Submitted by Phil Guiser

2/20/23