

Stratham Conservation Commission Public Meeting

Wednesday, January 25th, 2023

I. Call to order

Bill Kenny (Chair) called to order the regular meeting of the Town of Stratham Conservation Commission at 7pm on the 25th of January, 2023 at Stratham Town Hall.

II. Roll call

The following members were present: Bill Kenny (Chair), William McCarthy (member), the Hon. Allison Knab (member, Select Board Representative), Robert Keating (member), Kyle Saltonstall (vice-Chair, acting Secretary), Brad Jones (member), Dan McAuliffe (member), and Mr. Al Pace (Stratham Resident and landowner).

III. Mail

No important mail was received.

IV. Open Issues

1. Trail Management Advisory Committee (TMAC)

- On January 26th at 7pm there will be a public hearing at Town Hall concerning the Trail Management Advisory Committee. The intent is to make the public aware of the TMAC's accomplishments and address the proposed parking ban at the Jackrabbit Lane parking area of Stratham Hill Park.
- The meeting has been announced via flyers at the park, posted on social media, and announced via the Stratham Selectboard newsletter.
- TMAC is looking for feedback from the public on what they would like to see done. The Chair will host a facilitated conversation based on the current limitations and reality of the Town's parks and trails.
- The TMAC will speak about a proposed non-resident parking ban on Jackrabbit lane. The ordinance has been vetted by the Chief of Police, the Select Board, and Parks and Rec. A temporary closure last year was used as a "trial run." Users at the park have reported an increasing number of conflicts in the Jackrabbit Parking area between users: namely dogwalker vs. non-dogwalker. The area has also experienced a lot of litter and other abuse.
- The parking ban ordinance would effectively allow the police to ticket non-resident's cars that are using the lot. The Town Selectboard has the ability to pass this ordinance.
- The Selectboard is looking for approval from the Conservation Commission and other stakeholders before voting on the proposal.

- Kyle made a motion to “Approve the Proposed Ordinance if the Town also plans to issue Town Resident stickers to each town residence not to exceed the number of vehicles registered to each residence.” Mr. McCarthy seconded. Six members voted yes. Mr. Keating was the sole opposition with the statement, “I did not have enough time to review the ordinance before making a vote.” He would like to have the time to read all materials before the meeting so that he is better informed in his decisions.

2. Planning board updates

- PD is seeking an Animal Control Officer.
- The Zoning Board is looking for a new member.
- No updates on the “Open Space Committee” at this time.
- Some conversation and work is being done on “Stevens Park.” More updates to follow.

V. **New Business**

1. New Chair Person

Mr. Kenny announced that he will not seek re-election as Chair of the Conservation Commission after the next Town Meeting. He recommends that the Commission begins seeking a new Chair.

2. Opening on the Commission

There is currently one Alternate Member position available on the Conservation Commission. This opening will be posted on social media and in the Town newsletter. Meanwhile, Commission members should begin speaking with potential candidates in our community.

3. Well water testing

There will be a “Private Well Workshop” available to Stratham residents on February 22 at 6pm. If residents show up for the workshop, they will be able to get their water tested for free.

4. Pace Property

Mr. Al Pace of 16 Stratham Lane has been a resident for 45 years.

- Mr. Pace is currently looking after 8.44 acres off Stratham Heights road near the intersection of Eric Way. It’s been in his family since his grandparents bought it. It was used primarily as a woodlot. It is a landlocked property at Tax Map 3 #12 and is

assessed at \$13,600. Mr. Pace believes believes that it may be valued at around \$50,000. It hasn't been logged in many, many years.

- He is currently curious as to whether or not it would be possible sell the land to the Town of Stratham. The land currently abuts another Town owned parcel.
- The Committee informed Mr. Pace about the process to selling the land to the Town of Stratham. The Committee informed him that we will need to discuss this and get back to him and that the Commission is certainly interested in preserving the property.

VI. Non-Public Meeting

- a) Mr. Kenny motioned to enter a non-public meeting at 8:05pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCarthy and all other members voted in favor.
- b) Mr. McCarthy motioned to exit the non-public meeting and seal the minutes at 8:55pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Keating and all other members voted in favor.

VII. Adjournment.

Bill Kenny (Chair) adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm. Mr. Keating seconded the motion and all other members voted in favor.

Minutes submitted by: K Kyle Saltonstall

Minutes approved by: Name