

**Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Public Session
September 27th, 2023**

Conservation Commission Members Present: Bill McCarthy, Bob Keating, Dan McAuliffe, Brad Jones, Chris West, Allison Knab

Non-Members Present: Mark Conners, Kate Dardinski, Paul Deschaine

Meeting Called to order @ 7:00 PM

CC minutes:

23-Aug-2023 Public: Bob Keating moved to approve as written; Brad Jones second – motion passed unanimously.

Mail:

None

Community Power:

Paul Deschaine represented the Energy Commission to discuss the Community Power project which is an aggregation plan for power in town. The plan provides residents with a third option of power suppliers based on an aggregation of customers from a coalition of participating towns which increases the buying power.

There will be a special town meeting on 26-Oct for residents to approve the proposal and a public information meeting on 12-Oct.

Residents can still opt out of the program if approved. Dan McAuliffe asked about green sources of power. Paul Deschaine answered that there are various plan options that include different percentages of renewables.

TMAC:

Kate Dardinski represented the Trail Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) to present an update on activities.

There have been a number of dog issues reported, including problems with dog walkers on the trail crossing the Barker farm as well as the Crockett Farm property. In response TMAC will roll out new sandwich board type signage at the boundaries between the park and private land to inform trail users of the rules. TMAC also proposes

to erect 3 gates at the boundaries of the Barker and Crocket farm properties that can be closed during sensitive periods.

Open Space and Connectivity:

Mark Conners described an outreach plan targeting landowners with conservation easements on their property and proposed a joint meeting with the CC and Open Space Committees inviting said landowners.

Municipal Update:

Mark Conners described a plan to move management of the Land Conservation Fund to the Finance function in order to bypass the Trustees of the Trust.

7:44 PM

Bill McCarthy moved to enter Non-Public Session to discuss real estate options, Dan McAuliffe second - motion passed unanimously.

7:59 PM

Allison Knab moved to exit Non-Public Session and seal the minutes, Bob Keating second - motion passed unanimously.

Bill McCarthy moved to schedule a public hearing on Wed, 25-Oct regarding the expenditure of up to \$70,200 from the Land Conservation Fund to acquire the Ross parcel, Bob Keating second - motion passed unanimously.

8:04 PM

Bill McCarthy moved to adjourn, Dan McAuliffe second— motion passed unanimously; Meeting adjourned

Next regular meeting scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, October 25th at the Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill McCarthy

Serving as Secretary