

**Stratham Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Public Session  
January 27, 2021**

**Conservation Commission Members Present:** Bill McCarthy, Ana Egana, Allison Knab, Bob Keating, Brad Jones, Dan McAuliffe, Kyle Saltonstall, Bill Kenny

**Non-Members Present:** Seth Hickey, David Moore, Mark Conners, Kyle Hollasch, Kurt and Sue Scamman, John O'Brien

Meeting Called to order @ 7:03 PM

*CC minutes:*

9-Dec-2020 Public and Non-Public: Allison Knab moved to add John O'Brien as a participant in the public meeting and approve; Bob Keating second – motion passed unanimously.

*2021 Goals for the CC:*

Bill McCarthy announced that he will be stepping down as Chair of the CC, but wanted to set goals to help guide the CC in 2021.

- 1) Move land acquisition opportunities forward;
- 2) Revive town cleanup day, adapted for social distancing, possibly extending to a week-long event where people could pick up trash that would be picked up at the end of the period;
- 3) Support formation of the trail committee to implement trail management plan. Seth Hickey will create proposal for SB to consider. The goal is to have representatives from the user groups of Stratham Hill Park;
- 4) Create a handbook for the members of the CC that would include section on regulations/ordinances. The handbook could be housed on the town website and could possibly encourage people to become members;
- 5) Continue Rain Barrell/Compost Bin program. Bill Kenny reminded the CC that there are 20 compost bins and 15 rain barrels per pallet and that the CC did take pre-orders in the past. The CC discussed advertising on the CC Facebook page as well as the BOS newsletter. David Moore stated that composting saves on trash disposal costs for the town. An educational component would also be helpful (e.g. booth at Stratham Fair)

*Water Protection Grant:*

Regional Planning commission is leading the initiative to protect water resources and the town is looking for participants, including a representative from the CC. Allison has volunteered on behalf of the BOS, and Kyle Saltonstall has volunteered from the CC.

*Easement Monitoring:*

Scamman – an extensive trail network that was not noted on the monitoring report was discovered on the easement that included 16 bridges, some of which were substantial. SELT has been informed and will be sending letters to abutters of the property. The Scamman family has observed large numbers of people on their land, and have discovered destruction of their deer plots. There appears to be a misconception that the easement is open for general public use, and the CC will need to coordinate with SELT on the plan to address the issue. Kyle Hollasch stated that the town should be exercising its rights in the easement. Kurt and Sue Scamman responded that any development of trails requires permission from both the landowners and the town.

Roberts – an abutter notified the easement monitor that he believed that the property line is incorrect and believes that he owns property on the easement. The abutter stated that he had a professional look at the property line, but refused to share the details with SELT.

Batchelder Pond – there were some violations identified that had been identified in previous monitoring reports. The town and CC will work to resolve.

Batchelder – Nothing to note

Barker 1 and 2 – Some activity of abutters dumping lawn clippings on easement

Jones – Nothing to note

Short – gravel pull out built, but is permitted in the easement

Zarnowski – the town has reached an agreement with the Frost family, who are abutters, to formalize the right of way across the easement.

David Moore explained that the town has put together a list of conserved properties and the associated agreement to make it easier to access the information. The CC has historically addressed violations in a ad-hoc manner, so the more coordinated approach will be helpful.

*Old business:*

An amendment for the creation of a new zone along route 33, as well as changes to the gateway district are under way to simplify the zoning.

8:13 PM

Ana Egana moved to enter Non-Public Session to discuss real estate options, Bob Keating second – motion passed unanimously.

8:52 PM

Ana Egana moved to exit Non-Public Session and seal the minutes, Bob Keating second – motion passed unanimously.

8:53 PM

Bob Keating moved to adjourn, Kyle Saltonstall Second– motion passed unanimously; Meeting adjourned

**Next regular meeting scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Municipal Center and via teleconference.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Ana Egana

Serving as Secretary