

**Stratham Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Public Session  
July 26th, 2023**

**Conservation Commission Members Present:** Kyle Saltonstall, Bill McCarthy, Allison Knab, Bob Keating, Tim Copeland, Dan McAuliffe, Brad Jones, Chris West

**Non-Members Present:** Jeremy Lougee, Dave Canada, Rebecca Mithcell, Forest Barker, Kyle Hollasch, Christopher Mahan, Bruce Kerr

Meeting Called to order @ 7:00 PM

*CC minutes:*

28-Jun-2023 Public: Bob Keating moved to approve as written; Allison Knab second – motion passed unanimously.

*Mail:*

Invitation from SELT to Landowner meeting taking place Monday, August 14 @ Burley Farm.

*Squamscott Fields – Public Hearing*

Kyle Saltonstall read public announcement of hearing aloud to all attendees. The announcement described the proposal of the Conservation Commission committing \$500K from the Land Conservation Fund towards the conservation of land at the Suart Farm.

Allison Knab moved to open the public hearing; Dan McAuliffe second – motion passed unanimously.

Members of the public in attendance were asked to provide any comments. Dave Canada, Bunker Hill Ave; Rebecca Mitchell, Portsmouth Ave; Forest Barker, Portsmouth Ave; Christopher Mahan, Butterfield Lane; Bruce Kerr, High St; Kyle Hollasch, Gretas way – all spoke in favor of the proposal.

Allison Knab moved to close the public hearing; Dan McAuliffe second – motion passed unanimously.

Kyle Saltonstall read a letter of support from Bill Kenny, Chair, Stratham Conservation Commission. David Burdick, Director Jackson Estuarine Laboratory, also wrote a letter of support.

Tim Copeland asked that if the proposal is adopted will public access be written into the easement. Jeremy Lougee (SELT) responded that the intention is to pursue NOAA grant funding which requires passive access.

Dan McAuliffe moved to approve the proposal as written in the public hearing announcement; Bob Keating second – motion passed unanimously.

*Stratham Open Space Committee:*

There are 2 open surveys which will be accepting responses through August.

Received a lot of input at the Summerfest at Stratham Hill Park, which included the creation of a cross walk across rt 33 to the park; trails; connection to rail trails, etc.

Should see product of committee in the fall. The plan for the Smyk property has not been a part of the discussion so far.

*Clean up day receipt:*

Tim Copeland moved to pay Bill McCarthy \$78 for the Dunkin Donuts munchkins, coffee, etc. out of the CC budget, Dan McAuliffe second - motion passed unanimously.

7:35 PM

Allison Knab moved to enter Non-Public Session to discuss real estate options, Bob Keating second - motion passed unanimously.

7:46 PM

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

7:46 PM

Tim Copeland moved to adjourn, Bob Keating second– motion passed unanimously; Meeting adjourned

**Next regular meeting scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Municipal Center.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill McCarthy

Serving as Secretary