

**Stratham Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Public Session  
August 25th, 2021**

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

**Non-Members Present:** Mark Connors, Town Planner

Meeting Called to order @ 7:07 PM

*New Business:*

*CC minutes:*

28- July -2021 Public and Non-Public: Bob Keating moved to accept as written except for a change in the non-public meeting to substitute “surveys” for “appraisals”; Bill McCarthy second – motion passed unanimously.

*Mail:*

Rockingham Conservation District 2020 Update

*New Business:*

*Amount of Conserved Land in Stratham:*

Following up on the discussion of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, in which Bill Kenny asked about gathering information on the amount of acreage that is conserved in Stratham:

- 1) The CC had an excel file that was generated in 2011 and that Dan McAuliffe will share with the commission. The information in the file is a bit outdated and it will need updating, but it is a good starting point.
- 2) Mark Connors also shared that the town has a list of properties that have conservation easements. It is a total of ~ 1,730 acres. If to this we add the land owned by the NH Fish & Game Department (land not included in the conservation easement number) (~115 acres), and the land own by the Town (land not included in the conservation easement number, or land used for

municipal purposes except for recreation) (486 acres), the total number is closer to ~ 2,330 acres. Considering that the total acreage of the Town of Stratham is ~ 9,665 acres, then the percentage of land conserved is ~ 24%. Please note that this figure does not include HOA-managed common lands. Mark will be sharing the town's excel file with the CC so it can be reviewed.

*Old Business:*

*Update from Planning Board:*

- Mark Connors indicated that a preliminary plan for the development of 63 acres next to the Squamscott River has been presented to the Planning Board. The development will entail the construction of a ~128 townhouse community. Currently there is a one access point in and out proposed. This is being reviewed by the Fire Chief. The proposal may need to also be presented to the Exeter Planning Board. Wetland crossing variants may be required.

*Trail Management Advisory Committee Update:*

- Bill McCarthy provided an update. There was a public meeting organized by the committee to get public feedback. There were some common themes that arose during the meeting from the public: 1) Concerns about the erosion/degradation of trails. 2) Dog walking in the trail system – Providing signs with the town ordinances would be helpful. 3) General signage indicating the usage rules in different areas of the park would be helpful.
- Based on the public feedback and the Trail Management Report, the advisory committee will be putting a proposal together. They hope to tackle at least one of the proposed projects by the end of the year.
- The advisory committee would also like to gather some usage data on when the park and trails are being used and by how many people. They are looking into different options for counters. The Town of Keene is deploying some counters and the committee is engaging with this town to see what their experience has been.

7:50 PM

Ana Egana moved to enter Non-Public Session to discuss updates on real estate options, Bill McCarthy second - motion passed unanimously.

8:27 PM

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

8:28 PM

Bill McCarthy moved to adjourn, Bob Keating second– motion passed unanimously; Meeting adjourned

**Next regular meeting scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, September 22nd at the Municipal Center and via teleconference.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Ana Egana

Serving as Secretary