

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
LINCOLN CENTER DIRECTOR'S ROOM
February 10, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Clancy (Chair), Frank Belknap, Laura Edwards, Amberlee Clark, Ben Weidner, Bryon Billings

ALSO PRESENT: David Laiuppa, Environmental Planner/Wetlands Agent
Gary Anderson, Director of Planning and Economic Development

Mr. Clancy convened the meeting at 7:03 PM

Approval of Minutes January 19, 2021

The January 19, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

Presentation / Discussion

- None

Application Presentations

- None

Wetlands Permit Status

- None

Wetland Agent Actions/Enforcement

- Mr. Laiuppa gave an update on the status of the active Cease and Correct Order against the owner of the active construction site on Wetherell Street. The owner of the project is working on meeting all orders associated with this action.

Communications/Training/Seminars

- Mr. Laiuppa said that he has been discussing maintenance activities with Eversource. He reported that during a recent field meeting with Eversource he conveyed concerns about certain activities in environmentally sensitive areas. Eversource agreed to clean up some of the areas of concern and said that they would communicate their future activities in these areas.

Reports

- Hockanum River Linear Park Committee (HRLPC)
 - Mr. Belknap said that they are busy with trail repairs and general maintenance but they are restricted in what they can do because of the snow on the trails.

- Mr. Belknap said that there has been excessive beaver activity on the trails lately.
 - Mr. Belknap told the Commissioners that there was an opportunity to acquire funding from Representative Larson’s office to assist with work at Laurel Marsh.
 - Mr. Laiuppa said that the trails at Laurel Marsh are part of the ongoing Parks Master Plan and that the trails and parks were in the process of being ranked for prioritization. This ranking will help the Town to determine the amount of effort that will be invested into this and all parks and trails.
 - Ms. Edwards thought that the ranking of the trails in town made sense.
 - Mr. Anderson asked what specific project Mr. Belknap was hoping to have completed at Laurel Marsh.
 - Mr. Belknap said that he would like the money to go into repairing the boardwalk.
 - Mr. Anderson asked if Larson’s office wanted the money to be specifically earmarked for the boardwalk project.
 - Mr. Belknap said that if the Town does not ask for the money then the opportunity will have been lost.
 - Mr. Belknap said that if the Town wants to write off the trail project then it should be announced to the public.
 - Mr. Laiuppa and Mr. Anderson said that, before giving up on this idea, there would be additional discussions among Town Staff on how to move forward.
- Case Mountain Recreation Area
 - Mr. Clancy said that there was some minor debris on the trails.
 - Mr. Clancy noted that there is a dangerous tree overhanging part of the trail and that he had noted it in the Mark-It system. He asked who monitors the system and should he follow-up on the inquiry.
 - Mr. Laiuppa said that he would look into it and find out who is the point of contact for this issue.
- Manchester Land Conservation Trust (MLCT)
 - Mr. Belknap said that they are hosting walks and doing fund raising for the Lombardo Farm purchase.
- Rail Trails and Greenways
 - Nothing to report.
- Manchester Matters Bulletin
 - Ms. Edwards shared a letter that she wrote and would like to submit it.
- Land Acquisition Committee
 - Mr. Clancy said that the next meeting will be on March 25.
 - Mr. Clancy said that there is a petition to add funding to the Lombardo Farm purchase.
- Manchester Sustainability Task Force
 - Ms. Edwards said that the Sustainability Committee has an upcoming retreat scheduled for next week.

Old Business

- There was discussion about a letter from the Tree Warden.
 - The Commission agreed that Mr. Clancy's letter agreeing to more communication should be sent to the Tree Warden.
 - The Commission decided that there should be a "Tree Committee" item added to the standard Reporting section.

New Business

- No new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM