

**MINUTES**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**REMOTE PARTICIPATION**  
**January 4, 2021**

**OPENING:** The remote Zoom meeting is being held in pursuant to the Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, F.L. C.30A, 18 and the Governor's March 15, 2020 order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place.

Dave MacWilliams, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and announced the Commissioners who were in attendance names, time and date of the meeting, and that the meeting was being recorded.

**ATTENDANCE**

Christopher Pratt, Chairman	Present
David MacWilliams, Vice Chairman	Present
Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner	Present
Brian Drenen, Commissioner	Present
Brian Pranka, Commissioner	Present
Jerry Patria, Commissioner	Present
Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Commissioner	Absent
Dennis Clark, Coordinator	Present

Also in attendance was:

Douglas Moglin, Chairman Select Board  
Norman Cheever, Lake Management Committee  
Ryan Nelson, R. Levesque & Associates  
Randy Brown, DPW Director  
Julianne Busa, Fuss & O'Neill  
Mr. Alan & Mrs. Kathy Brooks

**MINUTES**

Vice Chairman MacWilliams made a motion to accept the minutes of December 7, 2020.

Commissioner Drenen seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Brian Drenen	yes
David MacWilliams	yes	Brian Pranka	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ryan Nelson, R. Levesque & Associates

**NOI DEP# 292-0374 115 Fred Jackson Road** (Continuation) Mr. Nelson requested a continuation of the Public Hearing until the next scheduled meeting on February 1, 2021. Commissioner Drenen made a motion to approve a continuation. Commissioner Patria seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Brian Drenen	yes
David MacWilliams	yes	Brian Pranka	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes

Randy Brown, DPW Director

Julianne Busa, Fuss & O'Neill

Alan & Kathy Brooks

**NOI DEP # 292- Klaus Anderson & Johnson Brook Culvert Replacement** Mr. Brown explained that the existing box culvert is between Fred Jackson and Cutis Roads, with a portion on property owned by Mr. Tom Arnold. As it currently exists, the roadway narrows, and the crossing is not safe. Ms. Busa presented a plan showing the width of the roadway will be extended to 19 feet. Only the design phase has been completed through a grant program. An application through the same grant program will be applied for once the project is nearer to construction, which may include a sidewalk. Ms. Busa explained that there will be a substantial change with slowing down storm water to help prevent erosion. There have been no comments or file number issued from DEP as of this meeting. The abutters in attendance Alan & Kathy Brooks had no comment at this time. Chairman Pratt made a motion to approve a continuation of the Public Hearing so comments from DEP can be reviewed. Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Brian Drenen	yes
David MacWilliams	yes	Brian Pranka	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes

Ryan Nelson, R. Levesque & Associates

**NOI SWK # 454-124 14 Noble Steed Crossing Single Family Dwelling** Chairman Pratt read the Public Hearing notice as posted in Reminder Publications on December 23, 2020. Mr. Levesque presented a plot plan showing isolated Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at the rear of the property. There will be some minor grading and fill with removal of some trees in the rear yard. The septic system and well is within allowable distances to the neighboring property. The Conservation Commission will require boulders to be included in the Order of Conditions along the 50' buffer line to permanently define the yard area as an ongoing condition. Silt fencing will be installed prior to construction. As there were no further discussion, Commissioner Mizanoglu made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Patria seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Brian Drenen	yes
David MacWilliams	yes	Brian Pranka	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes

Chairman Pratt made a motion to approve the project as presented with the discussed conditions included in the Order of Conditions and a \$5,000.00 bond. Vice Chairman MacWilliams seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Brian Drenen	yes
David MacWilliams	yes	Brian Pranka	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes

## NEW BUSINESS

**Mount Grace Land Trust** Ms. Kathryn Sutcliffe from the Mount Grace Land Trust issued an email to Coordinator Clark commending the work Southwick did on their Open Space and Recreation Plan. Coordinator Clark will join a Zoom meeting to further discuss featuring the Southwick plan as a case study about how to update an Open Space and Recreation Plan with a limited budget, which was completed at a minimal estimated cost to the Town of \$5,000.00 from CPA funding. The Conservation Commissioners commended Coordinator Clark on all his hard work in making the Southwick plan come to fruition.

**Flexible Residential Subdivision Open Space** Coordinator Clark has begun looking into other surrounding communities to review how their Planning Boards deal with Flexible Subdivision Open Space requirements. Select Board Chair Doug Moglin shared his thoughts on this ongoing issue. The Conservation Commission will request that a representative from the Planning Board participate in any future meetings for discussion and input relative to Conservation Restrictions and other requirements for Flexible Open Space. The Commission is requesting that the Planning Board consult with the Conservation Commission before including them into any decisions in the future.

**FY 2022 Budget** The Commissioners reviewed a draft budget for Fiscal Year 2022. Most line items will be submitted with the requested 5% reduction. An addition of a drone at an estimated cost of \$5,500.00 will again be submitted. The drone will help in identifying wetland properties that are difficult to access, and violations of lakefront residents who do not submit applications for docks, vessels, etc. As the budgets are due prior to the next scheduled meeting, Vice Chairman MacWilliams made a motion to allow Chairman Pratt to approve a final version of the budget. Commissioner Patria seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Brian Drenen	yes
David MacWilliams	yes	Brian Pranka	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes

## OLD BUSINESS

**101 Lakeview Street Annual Dock Removal** Mr. Cheever, LMC representative, stated that their Committee has not had an opportunity to vote on the requested variance extension. The issue will be tabled until the next meeting.

**156 Berkshire Avenue** Mr. Cheever, LMC, stated that the dock and vessel has been removed.

**North Pond Signage** Coordinator Clark sent the potential sign information to the State for their approval. The Commissioners agreed on the need to order 6 signs to be placed at various locations throughout the property once it is approved. Commissions agreed that “no swimming” will not be included in the sign. It was also noted by the Chair that trees on the property were marked to be cut. Coordinator Clark will do further research on that.

**New England Scenic Trail** Coordinator Clark, Vice Chairman MacWilliams, and Maryssa Oberon Cook attended a site visit at the location. It was not possible to observe the new trail bed because of the snow cover, but the ADA accessible improvements appear to have been completed. However, there is still some additional work that still needs to be done.

**Swamp Trail** Coordinator Clark will work with Commissioner MacWilliams and Dick Grannells to do further research with the State to determine the most efficient way to complete the project.

**Norm Cheever, LMC Report** Mr. Cheever reported that the dock at 43 Chestnut Street, CT, has since been removed. Mr. Cheever also stated that there is a potential for construction of a boat house on the North Ramp for the police boat. The Commissioners agreed that a Request for Determination will need to be filed if the construction is within 100 feet of the lake.

**Town Hall Meeting Protocol** As of this meeting, the Covid-19 is still impacting the ability for a return to meetings being conducted within the Town Hall Building.

As there was no further business to discuss, Commissioner Drenen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM. Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. The roll call vote of the Commission was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Brian Drenen	yes
David MacWilliams	yes	Brian Pranka	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is 02/01/21.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jean Nilsson, Secretary

cc:

Select Board  
Town Clerk

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Christopher Pratt, Chairman

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Vice Chairman MacWilliams

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Jerry Patria, Commissioner

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Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner

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Brian Drenen, Commissioner

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Brian Pranka, Commissioner

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Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Commissioner

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Date

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