

Groton Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2021 @ 7 pm

Members Present: Stephen "Slim" Spafford, Cindy Carpenter, Gina Rescigno, Forrest Blake, Virginia Parker, Justin Weekley

Non-Members Present: Ruth Gaffey

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Reading of the minutes from our meeting on July 8, 2021.

Minutes accepted as is.

Welcome to new member Justin.

Cockermouth Dam & Dredging update

The environmental services department continues to be understaffed and no site visit has been scheduled. The select board has written a formal complaint regarding the lack of permitting for the dredging. Slim motioned for the commission to file a formal complaint with the state. Seconded by Gina. Unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Spectacle Pond Association (SPA)

Ruth Gaffey, representing the SPA, provided an overview of their mission, progress, and challenges. Notably, the SPA paid over \$224,000 to reconstruct the dam, dike and spillway on Spectacle Pond. With water levels now stable, loons now make this an annual breeding site.

SPA also does regular water testing through the State Volunteer Lakes Assessment Program (VLAP). The annual cost for testing Spectacle Pond was \$380 for 2021. The most expensive past year was \$420 due to e coli. Ruth requested the commission contribute 50% for future water testing. The remaining 50% will be covered by Hebron. Justin made a motion to accept 50% of VLAP annual cost. Seconded by Virginia. Unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The commission was also given the opportunity for voting and/or associate membership with the SPA. Members expressed concerns over the financial implications of becoming a voting member. Regardless of membership, Groton is entitled to have a representative for SPA without dues, in a non-voting capacity. Slim motioned for the commission to become an associate member of the SPA, with \$30 dues to be paid. Gina seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Budget for 2022

Meeting with select board to review our requested budget is October 5 at 6:15 pm. Commission agreed to repeat last year's budget, with an added line item for the VLAP water testing.

Morningdove Holdings

Slim is still looking to lock in a date for a field trip to learn more about their activities (clear cutting & Halls Brook reclamation).

Roadside Cleanup

Scheduled for October 2 from 10 am – 12 pm. A hike to follow, dependent on weather and interest.

Town Owned Lots

The lots discussed at the last meeting were reviewed by the select board. The select board does not see a viable way to get a clean deed on those lots. Because of this, they are not able to sell them until title is found.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Virginia Parker