

Sharon Conservation Commission
July 25, 2023

Minutes

On Tuesday July 25, 2023 a regular meeting of the Sharon Conservation Commission was held at the Sharon Meeting House on Route 123 in Sharon, New Hampshire at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Anne Fischer, Anne Booth, Belinda Backstrom, and Beth Fernald.

Also in attendance: Robert Hauser

Minutes

Voted to accept the minutes of June 27, 2023 with the balance of Town Forest fund reflecting \$88.18 in interest for a balance of 101,259.01.

Financial

Fund numbers as of 7/31/23:

Conservation Fund	Interest \$109.75	Balance \$ 138,931.53
Town Forest Fund	Interest \$ 79.98	Balance \$ 101,250.81

Beavers

Nothing new.

Conservation Easements

Nothing new. There was discussion of Kuchinos' property. Chet Bowles brought it up in a Select Board meeting. The Cons Com members in attendance agreed that one of us should call the Kuchinos and suggest that we meet to discuss conservation easements.

Town Forest

Discussion of the real fire risk. On the walk that Ian and Belinda took with Jeff Littleton/Moosewood, he noted that the black area is not ecologically sensitive, but it is very wet. The Cons Com members voted to pay Jeff Littleton to do an inventory of the black area. Anne F. will ask, and will also ask him how much it will reduce the cost of the overall inventory. Members voted to spend up to \$12K. We would also like to speak with a fire expert, hopefully getting someone to come see the Forest. The extent of the Hemlock destruction in Sharon is unlike what other towns have experienced (per Swift). Unless someone sees it, they may not be able to adequately access the fire risk. We also discussed Swift's most recent summary in which the Sharon Cons Com would pay to have the black area logged, but it would be done with less equipment. Chipping would be done off sight. We decided to table that discussion until Jeff's inventory. While we wait, the value of Hemlock is dropping, however, we also avoided having machinery in the Forest during nesting season.

Also discussed was the fact that we have not been able to get Peterborough Fire to weigh in on the danger (or to go see it). Anne B. will draft a letter to the Select Board stating this, plus note that Sharon appears to not have any firefighting plan in place, should a fire break out in the Town Forest.

Moosewood Ecological LLC - Proposal.

We'll discuss the Mooseplate grant program in the August meeting.

Possible Projects

Previously Beth outlined a list of possible projects related to things we care about which she and Jim thought, if there is interest, we could consider doing. The members decided that we have a huge task ahead of us now with the hemlock issue, and we'll table the list until a later date.

Trail Cameras

Once we know if we are logging in Forest, and where, Anne F. and Belinda will place their cameras somewhere in the woods. TBD

Bonsal Property – South Road (Map 7 Lot 8 – 125 acres; Map3 Lot 46 – 46 acres)

Nothing new.

Gridley River Water Testing

Ian to contact Selinda for water testing equipment and info to give to Shane.

**Next regular meeting will be held at the Sharon Meeting House
Route 123 Sharon, New Hampshire at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 08/22/2023**