

HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, December 12, 2022

4:30pm

Hooksett Municipal Building

35 Main Street

Town Council Chambers

I. Open Meeting: 4:31

**II. Attendance/Introductions: Cindy Robertson – Chair, JoCarol Woodburn – Vice-Chair, Robert Better – Member, Philip Fitanides – Member, Deborah Miville – Member, Alex Walczyk – Town Council Representative (arrived at 4:43)
Not Present: Sheena Gilbert - Planning Board Representative**

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Public Input

Kathy McClean, 64 Dale Rd.: I watched last month's meeting and there seemed to be a lot of confusion about the beavers at the Riverwalk. During the November meeting, there seemed to be confusion whether or not the beavers were trapped and released elsewhere or trapped and killed. I had believed it was illegal to trap and release but did not know the law of New Hampshire. I spoke with Josh at USDA Wildlife Services who said that trapping and relocating is not illegal, but it is typically not done because it is costly, and you need to have permission of the landowner where you will be releasing it. If you do not have permission of the landowner, it is illegal. He also said that he had no knowledge of someone who did trap and release in New Hampshire because of the associated cost and labor. For the traps, he mentioned 2 kinds of traps that are used, the conibear and the leg hold trap. The first is a trap that snaps shut and severs the spine and kills the beaver instantly. It can be on land or submerged. The other trap has bear grips or tension that holds the animals. This is used when tagging animals, keeping them alive and holding them there, not killing them instantly and is usually submerged in water. It will prevent them from reaching the surface, or it is put in shallower water and is attached to a type of cable to drag them to deeper water. Beavers can breathe for some time under water, but they will drown after about 15 minutes. I do not know what Mr. Tatem uses for traps, but I would like to ask. It would be ethically and morally right to have had these questions answered before hiring the trapper. The next issue I have is the use of the word euthanasia. In the minutes of the September meeting, it reads that Dan had said that they were removed and euthanized. However, I reviewed and listened back to the meeting, and I asked others too as well, and he did not use the word euthanize. He had said that he ate them. Euthanasia is a merciful killing of an animal. What was done at Riverwalk does not fit that definition. The beavers were not in any suffering prior to being in the traps. Beavers offer many benefits to their ecosystem. The word euthanasia is misleading and inaccurate, and I object to what is happening. I would like the minutes to be amended to his actual wording, that he ate them. Next, I do not understand how he is eating the meat in the summer where the meat would quickly go bad. The only way I can think is that the animal was suffering in the trap alive until he

45 showed up to kill them. Also in the minutes, it says the cost was \$1600 for the pipe system.
46 However, it was mentioned that the pipe system failed. Josh at USDA mentioned that there are
47 more alternatives than resorting to killing the beaver. Why did it fail, did it need maintenance?
48 Josh said that they require maintenance, and it needs to be a part of the contract by the
49 installer or the landowner. Was there a maintenance plan in the contract? I have a pamphlet
50 from UNH that says routine maintenance is necessary but is not that costly and can be done by
51 the landowner or interested parties or volunteers. Another town had this in their contract. Josh
52 mentioned that a properly installed pipe system should last 15 years. The money was spent on
53 this and it failed, but we do not know why it failed. Were measures taken to figure out the
54 issue? Also in the minutes, it was mentioned by Cindy that there are only two options, a pipe
55 system or trapping, and that therefore trapping will continue since the pipe system failed. But
56 this is incorrect, and a third option is to redesign the trail to allow for the water. It was built on
57 a flood plain with no contingency plan to allow for rising water. A raised walkway could be
58 installed for when the expected water rise occurs, when we get out of this drought. This would
59 be a solution for both the flooding and the beavers. It is a beaver habitat, and they cannot be
60 removed for forever, they will keep coming back. How much money will be spent if it is a losing
61 battle. Next, the trail that was built was overseen by Stantec. They are contacted for resolutions
62 if there is an issue. They were contacted about the flooding when we knew it was a wetland
63 and in a flood plain from the start. The decision was made by them to kill the beavers, and a
64 cycle was set up to continuously pay to kill the beavers, as they will never completely go away.
65 The person that stands to gain the most is an employee of Stantec, which is a red flag. Lastly,
66 when I vote to give part of my property taxes to this commission, I never dreamed that that
67 money would be used to kill wildlife. I will not vote for any budget or warrant articles for this
68 commissions until this killing has ended.

69 **Holly Londo, 32 Prescott Heights Rd.:** I have concerns regarding the Riverwalk and unleashed
70 dogs. I have been told that I need to leave town if I want to walk my dogs because of off-leash
71 dogs, which is not right. I always have my dogs on a leash. I know there is a sign, maybe more
72 signage or if something else could be done. The four times we've been there I have had to
73 protect my dog from unleashed dogs each time. I am worried for both my dogs that are on a
74 leash, and children, for their safety. I have been told to go to Goffstown or MA if I want to walk
75 my dogs safely. I don't know what else to do. I am a responsible dog owner and clean up their
76 waste. The times my dogs have been attacked, the dogs were out of control and the owners
77 were far away. They did not have control and by the time they got to where their animal was,
78 the situation could have been really bad. I was bitten myself by my dog since she is reactive,
79 rather than having it become a bigger situation if she bit the other dog. I should not have to
80 leave town to walk my dogs. I am uncomfortable and so many people feel the same way. Many
81 people do not bring their children here any longer because of this. There are so many people in
82 agreeance. Or elderly people and others that have had surgery and disabilities, they cannot feel
83 safe. I don't want to hurt an animal but I need to protect myself and it is uncomfortable when I
84 feel like I need to bring a weapon or something to protect myself with, which is sad because it is
85 such a beautiful trail.

86 **Allison Del Vicario, 41 Garland Lane:** I also came because of the Facebook posting. To reiterate
87 the previous person, I walk my dogs at the trail as well, and it is a problem. I don't think it is

88 many people either, it is the same people that refuse to leash their dogs. One of my dogs is
89 reactive because he has been bit before by a loose dog. If a dog runs up to him, he is defensive.
90 Even if people say they are friendly, a dog running up to his face is not going to stop them from
91 reacting, it is not good behavior to let them run up. I was confused because I had not seen the
92 leash sign, so I thought it may be allowed. I have seen the same thing at the Riverwalk Trail at
93 the dog park, but also the other trail by the pond. I have seen a clear leash law posted there,
94 but there are still quote-unquote friendly off leash dog that run up to my dogs. There is
95 someone with four medium sized dogs, 60-80 pounds, that a woman brings that will run up to
96 people's dogs including mine. People yelling that their dog is friendly, maybe they do not realize
97 that it is a bigger issue. I think it is an educational issue that people are just no aware. I wonder
98 if different kinds of information could help people understand. At one of the dog-daycares I
99 have gone to, there was a pamphlet and infographic and comparisons that are helpful for
100 people to put into perspective. Maybe more research into what tools can be used for public
101 consumption could help.

102 **Bob:** Is it generally same time of day?

103 **Alison:** No, it varies. Probably more often on the weekend but it could be anytime.

104 **Kathryn Janosz, 39 Main Street: (6:10 PM)** I spoke with Barbara at New Hampshire
105 Conservation and brought up some issues. For the feces issue, they previously had barrels for
106 that and other waste, coffee cups, etc., which was working. When the barrels were removed, it
107 made the issue worse. Barbara asked where the grant comes from, as she couldn't understand
108 why there couldn't be barrels on the trails, or why there can't be people that volunteer to assist
109 with the barrels. This could solve that issue. Also, Barbara was wondering who is managing the
110 trails. For the unleashed dogs, I am on the other side of the fence. I have a friendly dog and my
111 dog needs to be off leash to burn energy. He is large, a golden retriever. I was confronted by
112 someone who threatened me since my dog went up to her two dogs off leash. The people want
113 to fight, I did not want to argue with her. She then did not want me to go down the hill since
114 her car was parked down there. She was out for a fight. For the number of comments on the
115 Facebook posts, it is the same 30 people complaining and commenting. I take my dog to the
116 Jenness Beach in the summer, and they have hours from 7-9 in the morning where dogs can be
117 off leash. There should be something like that in Hooksett so there is an alternative. I
118 understand people are afraid. But if there were certain hours, it could be a solution. Other
119 current trails are too small. My dog loves everybody. The dog park is so small and crowded, I
120 don't go there. It is a suggestion.

121 **Cindy:** For the question on who manages the trails, the Society for the Protection of New
122 Hampshire Forests are the easement holders, so we monitor and manage it, but everything that
123 we do needs to be approved by them.

124

125 **V. Consent Agenda**

126 i. 35 Edgewater Drive, Map 5 Lot 54, DES Permit AoT-2262

127

128 ***Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Alex Walczyk, seconded by Phil Fitanides.***

129

Motion passed.

130

131 **VI. Meeting Minutes Approvals**

132 11/14/2022

133 **Phil:** Line 35 the total weight should read as 1,100, not 11,000. It is 350 pounds each for bench,
134 so the total is 1100. Line 95, who should be changed to how.

135

136 ***Motion to approve the November 14, 2022 minutes made by Bob Better, seconded by Alex***
137 ***Walczyk. Motion passed.***

138

139 **VII. Invoices**

140 i. Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, 8/15/2022 Invoice #10235 for \$2,925

141 **Deb:** It says it is from January to July, but I only have the invoice from July 5 for \$300 for Steve
142 Couture.

143 **Phil:** Can we get a breakdown of what was done for this amount?

144 **Cindy:** Yes, I see the full invoice is for a period of January to July, but the other only marks July.
145 It should have been approved a few months ago but it was lost. I think there is more supporting
146 documentation that we had, we can see if it can be found. We have the contract that they bill
147 off of, so \$1750 for consulting may be the half.

148 **Deb:** The number doesn't match so I was trying to do the math.

149 **Alex:** I would like the documentation and more detail since it is from January, it is possible we
150 may have paid it already.

151 **Cindy:** This bill is already 6 months late since it was the first half of 2022. We have done a lot of
152 work, but I thought we had seen back-up for this. There was an email from Katrina asking
153 where the payment was which is why it was brought up now. We will move it to January and
154 keep it on the January agenda.

155

156 ii. NH Association of Conservation Commissions, 11/17/2022 Invoice #1923 for
157 \$100

158 ***Motion to approve invoice dated 11/17/22 in the amount of \$100 made by Bob Better,***
159 ***seconded by Deb Miville. Motion passed.***

160

161 iii. Stantec, 11/23/2022 Invoice #2007786 for Open Space Survey for \$966
162 (Billing Backup Provided)

163 ***Motion to approve invoice dated 11/23/22 in the amount of \$966 for the Open Space Survey***
164 ***made by Deb Miville, seconded by Alex Walczyk. Motion passed.***

165 **Cindy:** As an aside I have started working on the encroachment letters. I wanted to reference
166 the monuments and pins so the landowners had reference. Dan is checking to see if it is
167 marked.

168

169 iv. J. Daniel Tatem, 12/9/22, Invoice - Nuisance Beaver Trapping for \$275

170 ***Motion to approve invoice dated 12/9/22 in the amount of \$275 made by Phil Fitanides,***
171 ***seconded by Bob Better. Motion passed.***

172 **Cindy:** Dan indicated he thinks we are done for the winter with this.

173

174 **VIII. Appointments:** (None)

175 **IX. Other Business**

176 i. **Invasive Species Management – Increased quote from Paul Eaton**

177 **Cindy:** I think it was mentioned previously how the bittersweet was deeper in the property that
178 he thought. In his email, he said; *“2023 is the third year of our invasives control program at*
179 *Quimby Mountain, and I'm proud of what we've accomplished thus far. My original quote for*
180 *this upcoming year was \$650. However, the scope of work increased as we uncovered the extent*
181 *of the infestation. I'd like to spend a full day with a helper in 2023, which would be \$1500. I feel*
182 *this is needed to thoroughly search for and eliminate surviving plants and new sprouts from the*
183 *seedbank.”* So, he is looking for the difference between the original quote of \$650 and the new
184 quote of \$1500.

185 **Phil:** As Paul is an expert, I would like to know what kind of helper he is using. \$1500 is a lot of
186 money, so I wonder what qualifications or expertise the helper has and what he is paying them.

187 **Cindy:** I don't think his intent was to spend a whole day and he thought it would only be an
188 hour or two at first with the original quote.

189 **Phil:** He is supposed to be professional, and I think \$1500 is outrageous as more than double
190 what he originally asked for. I think something is wrong.

191 **Deb:** If Paul is starting to raise prices as prices for everything increases, there should be a limit
192 on what we agree to pay extra since he could keep coming back and asking for more money.

193 **Cindy:** Do you mean for the rest of the contract or the rest of 2023? We do have time for this
194 since it is not until Spring 2023. We can look at the contract or have him come in and ask these
195 questions before we vote.

196 **Phil:** Invasive species also need to have their root system taken out to make sure everything is
197 eliminated.

198 **Cindy:** This is part of a three-year contract. He is not going to clear the whole mountain. It is
199 very tedious work. Two years ago, he pulled the whole wall of bittersweet down, down to the
200 root. Last year he went deeper to pull and spray it. Now he is going in and working on it as he
201 finds it. It was a huge undertaking. We could have him come in and explain it to us at our
202 January meeting to see what is involved. It is not just inspection, it is eliminating. It is only the
203 increase we are looking for, so \$850.

204 **Alex:** It raises the question, since it is two people it will raise the cost. But I am curious how it
205 doubled. After taking a second look and he changed his estimate, if it has gotten worse, we
206 should know and get more details.

207 **JoCarol:** It was one person for half a day, and now it is two people for a full day. The price has
208 actually gone down if you calculate that.

209 **Alex:** I am just curious if it has spread, I don't know if it is worth it to have him come in though.

210 **Cindy:** I will write to him and raise these issues, and if we are not satisfied, then we can bring
211 him in to speak with us. And if we say no, he can do what he can for the original quote and
212 what we have already paid for of the \$650. That amount will be used in 2023 and we have
213 already signed that contract.

214

215 **Motion to accept proposal to raise original quote from \$650 for a half day, to \$1500 for a full**
216 **day with two people in 2023, made by JoCarol Woodburn, seconded by Bob Better.**

217 **JoCarol – Yes**

218 **Bob – Yes**

219 **Deb – Yes**

220 **Cindy – Yes**

221 **Phil – Yes**

222 **Alex – No**

223

Motion passed.

224 **Cindy:** I will still send him an email to have more information.

225

226 ii. **Riverwalk Trail - Approval of project design proposal**

227 **Cindy:** We have been throwing this project total around, but we have not actually made a
228 motion on it according to Dan Tatem as a committee. Without an approval he cannot bid it out
229 which he is hoping to do in January. Maybe I thought we already approved the design.

230 **Bob:** Which of the two trails is this when it forks to go into Allenstown?

231 **Cindy:** We will discuss this in a bit.

232 **Phil:** Is there a breakdown of how much a truckload of gravel or the types of gravel and what is
233 being trucked?

234 **Cindy:** This is a probable construction design. When he bids this out to request proposals, the
235 companies that will do the work will then be presented to us. We will select who will do the
236 work. Then, he will work on the exact costs, and they will be able to answer those questions,
237 which will be next summer. It is also contingent on us getting the funding.

238 **Motion to approve the Engineers Opinion in the total of 384,875.80 for the Riverwalk Trail**
239 **Phase IV: Connecting Phase I to Farm Bridge 2,290' of 12' Wide Gravel Trail and 26' Farm**
240 **Bridge Revised to Include 450' of Trail to Extend to Town Line, seconded by Alex Walczyk.**

241

Motion passed.

242

243 iii. **Benches on Riverwalk Trail (Continued Discussion)**

244 **Phil:** I was in touch with Linda at Genest Precast and she told me that she was in touch with
245 Bridgette.

246 **Bridgette:** The invoice was received today, and the check should go out shortly.

247 **Phil:** As soon as this week or next week then, the benches will be picked up and can be
248 assembled by Scott. He has the wood on order, it is not in stock yet. This is in Sanford, Maine.
249 We will then get a bill for the wood and assembly, and we will need to approve that for
250 payment, and then the town can pick that up. It will likely be at least another month.

251 **Cindy:** And you coordinated with DPW?

252 **Phil:** Yes.

253 **JoCarol:** There are 3 cutouts for where we need benches, but one is close to an already existing
254 bench, so the thought is to move it down. I can mark a map and send this out.

255 **Phil:** I will ask if the wood is natural or coated. If the benches are not treated, maybe they
256 should be treated by epoxy or something.

257 **Cindy:** DPW will know, I did not think they were treated yearly. I do not think they require
258 maintenance.

259

260 iv. **Unleashed Dogs on Trails**

261 **Cindy:** This is very similar to the target shooting and the dog waste issue. We are only an
262 advisory board and are not an enforcement board. We do appreciate people coming in and
263 letting us know the issues, but there is nothing that the commission can physically do. I like the
264 idea of more education, and I wonder if Heather at the library could put together a discussion
265 about dog handling and how it is not healthy for dogs to be running up to other dogs freely. I
266 don't know if more signs would help, the current one is very obvious. There is a section about
267 letting dogs run uncontrolled where there is livestock and for footed wild animals. The issue
268 seems to be the enforcement, and how to get people to keep their dogs on a leash. I thought
269 we had a dog enforcement officer, but we do not. If we had volunteers, it is too risky as people
270 quickly get angry.

271 **Bob:** People should take pictures to bring to police.

272 **JoCarol:** Yes, people can since it is a public area, it is legal. Or license plates, but people still
273 need to be careful, even if it is legal. People will get upset. One lady got very confrontational
274 with me when their off-leash dog ran up to me.

275 **Cindy:** If someone does pepper spray someone or their dog they are in their right, but it is still
276 tricky. Maybe on the blog it should be posted as an informational piece on how to alert the
277 police as they can be fined. People also say their dogs are not at large because they are in
278 command of their dog vocally.

279 **Phil:** If this continues, maybe all dogs and all animals should be stopped from being on the
280 trails. Other community trails are open certain times of the year with different rules. There are
281 multiple diseases too that spread from the dog feces, where infection causes serious illness,
282 organ damage, eye disease. This is happening in public parks. I can do more research and send
283 it out.

284 **JoCarol:** Some of this is already in the blog as well, and how it can get into the water systems.

285 **Phil:** Sometimes when the waste bags are thrown into the woods, others clean it up, but I don't
286 know how often this is done though.

287 **Cindy:** Yes, there are pamphlets at town hall regarding this. For the dogs running loose, maybe
288 we could bring it to council, and/or have a police officer to walk the trail at a random time who
289 could enforce the leash.

290 **JoCarol:** For a period of time to have them regularly there, and even hand out tickets.

291 **Cindy:** Yes, it is in the statute. We need to be careful because there needs to be authority
292 behind it, it is too risky for volunteers.

293 **Phil:** Are they licensed and have rabies tags? Is it only Hooksett residents?

294 **Cindy:** We cannot monitor rabies. And anyone can use the trail. This is the issue of who
295 enforces it. It could happen at any time, anywhere too, not just the trails. The problem is that
296 people do not want to go on the trail anymore because of this. Even though it is just a few
297 people. The person earlier too very clearly identified an individual with four medium sized dogs.
298 It is distinctive and they could be found.

299 **Alex:** I was reviewing the ordinance and it does say notify police.

300 **JoCarol:** One person did, but they said that the police did not do anything.

301 **Alex:** The ordinance does continue that it is at the discretion of the officer. Maybe there is a
302 first offense of a warning and trying to reason, rather than immediately handing out a fine.

303 Maybe if the police are more aware and frequently notified of the same offenders, they will do
304 something. It also says they need to get back to the town within 96 hours. If they neglect to
305 comply as well, then they can be prosecuted. The measures are in place, but it is a matter of
306 finding the owners. I do not think it is unreasonable to reach out to the police and ask them to
307 patrol at the Riverwalk Trail more often. They could pick up on the pattern. Also, for people to
308 try and discern a common time. I haven't ready through all of the Facebook comments yet.

309 **JoCarol:** And at Heads Pond too. There was an additional Facebook post as well just two days
310 ago with over 100 comments.

311 **Alex:** We need to remind folks to contact police and then they can pick up the pattern. It is not
312 definite, but if enough people as a community are contacting the police, hopefully it can make a
313 change. It should be taken up with the police directly as Town Council can also not enforce,
314 similar to what Cindy said earlier about this committee. I can bring it up at the next meeting in
315 January and see if there are other suggestions. We do not need to get on the agenda, but it also
316 makes sense to bring it up to the police.

317 **Cindy:** And the police are also regularly at the Town Council meetings already. Everyone who is
318 already having an issue, it will spread to the police to help paint the picture.

319 **JoCarol:** Is there a number or email for them to contact?

320 **Cindy:** Just the Hooksett Police contact information, or they can start by contacting Bridgette so
321 that we can establish a pattern, finding the common day and time of when the dogs are off
322 leash.

323 **Phil:** There is an issue with the ordinance, where it mentions the town limits. If the town is x
324 number of miles, and the town limits are the center of town, if the trails are in the outer limits,
325 they are outside the town limits?

326 **Cindy:** No, it is referring to the town borders, anything in the town of Hooksett.

327 **Bob:** I want to reiterate that people can take pictures.

328 **Cindy:** If you get the plate number too, then you can have their name to identify.

329 **JoCarol:** I took a picture of one person who had their dog off leash, and he immediately was
330 confrontational and raised his voice. I reminded him it is the law to leash the dog.

331 **Cindy:** If there are enough people telling a person to follow this rule, I wonder if people will
332 eventually get the point. Maybe it would peer pressure in a way, but it will take a lot of people.
333 It is complicated. It should be on the blog as mentioned.

334 **JoCarol:** Are we raising it to the police's attention?

335 **Alex:** It is a good idea so that they are aware and know to expect calls about this.

336 **Cindy:** And to let them know there are a lot of people that are concerned and frightened, and
337 to ask about the patrol.

338

339 v. **Eagle Scout Project: Benches in Parks/Trails**

340 **Cindy:** We received this email from Bruce Thomas, Town Engineer, that Scout Sam Danforth is
341 looking to build four to six benches for his Eagle Scout project, and is looking for information on
342 where to place them. He has gone to Parks and Recreation, but Bruce recommended he speak
343 with us on location. I am not sure.

344 **JoCarol:** Maybe at Heads Pond?

345 **Cindy:** Please bring it up with Kiwanis to see if they would like some.

346 **Bob:** What are the standards for the benches?

347 **Cindy:** That is a conversation with who is overseeing the Eagle Scout project leader, as it has to
348 be approved to be good enough. Maybe we could check with Bruce too.

349 **Deb:** The bench done previously by an Eagle Scout at Heritage Landing had a tree fall and
350 damage it, across the street from the church. That could be a possible place.

351 **Cindy:** JoCarol if you speak to Kiwanis, I will get in touch with Bruce with recommendations of
352 Heritage Landing and possibly Heads Pond and then the Eagle Scout can follow up.

353

354 vi. **Phase IV Riverwalk Trail – Update**

355 **Cindy:** There are two items of bad news. What we own and what we had surveyed did not go all
356 the way to Allenstown, so we had to get an easement and have it recorded. Dan gave an
357 estimate of \$6200 not knowing what the land was going to be. JoCarol did all the work and
358 submitted the paperwork for a grant with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire
359 Forests, but I received a call the other day from them and said it did not meet the qualifications
360 of this grant round since we do not own the property and are only getting a right of way. But he
361 said in the spring of next year there will be a new grant that we can apply for that may be more
362 applicable.

363 **JoCarol:** Steve Couture was the one to tell us about the grant and said it was a good idea, but
364 unfortunately, they came back with this information.

365 **Cindy:** We will keep the previous paperwork on hand for that future grant submittal. The other
366 item of bad news that happened is that the other day, Dan, JoCarol, the Allenstown Town
367 Manager and other Allenstown employees, Naomi from the Society for the Protection of New
368 Hampshire Forests, Rue from Bear Paw, other DES employees and I were on the trail. The trail
369 that was cleared to the side we needed DES approval prior which we did not have, so we did it
370 after the fact and they were fine with it. So, we all went out to walk the trail as a group. At the
371 circle at the end, to head north, if you go to take a left, the idea was to go straight up to
372 Allenstown. I thought we owned that property, but there are posted no trespassing signs. We
373 continued, until we got to where we know it is no longer our property and is posted with
374 cameras. When we went to the Allenstown border though, there are concrete blocks in the
375 way. Allenstown has brought their trail down to here. There are wetlands here too. So, the
376 issue is we do not know if we have access to where we want to go. Dan said we could shift the
377 trail to the right of way, but then we realized we may not own it. It was not shown on the map.
378 The other issues are the concrete barriers and what to do with them, and then all of the
379 wetlands. It is much more than expected. The idea is we could build a bridge over the concrete
380 barriers. To get to the rest of trail was enormously difficult from the Allenstown side, even
381 though we were so close. We did not know we had these multiple problems. I emailed Steve as
382 I was convinced there was no way we didn't own that property. Steve went back to review the
383 language of Mr. Bailey, who owns that property, and he said we would get that right of way. I
384 emailed Matt Serge, Town Attorney, but he was out and said he would get back to me. He said
385 he was aware of the situation and will pull the deed and check the names. So, I think we are
386 fine. But, the surveying and wetlands is a mess. Dan told JoCarol and I that he will put together
387 a proposed cost. These are the items he has listed, and again he wants to put it out to bid in
388 January: \$6,500 for the wetland impact field work and written assessment, required by DES,

389 \$1,500 for the additional survey work, \$10,000 for the wetland permit application prep,
390 coordination with DES, Fish and Game, and impact plans, and \$2,500 for coordination with the
391 gas company for crossing and constructing trail over their easement. Application fees are
392 excluded, so the total is currently \$20,500. Prior to going out there we did not know this. This
393 also just came in at 3 o'clock this afternoon. He wants it included in the bidding for January. We
394 have the money in our fund to do this. Allenstown has already built their trail down to meet at
395 this point, but now we have this gap to fill.

396 **Deb:** So the end of the trail for Allenstown, there are no wetlands?

397 **Cindy:** Possibly but theirs are further north, not where the town line is.

398 **Deb:** The cement barriers are from a gas line?

399 **Cindy:** The gas lines are underground, I think they are buried. We don't know the history of the
400 cement barriers, but there are two of them that we need to build a bridge to go over. It looks
401 like sides of a bridge where the middle collapsed. It looks like there is a gap. We may have
402 never known it was there until Allenstown had cleared their land. We do not know who put up
403 the no trespassing signs. I am waiting to hear from the attorney, to then bring it to Dan. There
404 was also confusion on who had been clearing this, too. We are looking at this total of \$20,500.
405 We have a warrant article to ask the town for \$250,000 towards the \$385,000. My
406 recommendation is to move forward and pay for this out of our conservation fund, we have the
407 money. It is a huge project we have worked on for so long. I do not want to do another phase. It
408 is part of the grant and our 10-year plan. This is our big project. If we don't go to Allenstown,
409 then it begs the question of what is the point of doing Phase IV.

410 **Alex:** When would we have to pay this? If we move forward but do not get funding for the
411 larger total, then what is the point.

412 **Cindy:** That is a great point. Dan wants it approved because they are already doing the work. If
413 we are committed to getting to Allenstown, even if we don't get the money from the warrant
414 article, I would try again the next year in 2024. It is all contingent and falls on itself.

415 **Deb:** Who is they?

416 **Cindy:** The survey crew. He wanted it included while they are already there doing survey work.
417 Even if the survey is done though, he still has to meet with New Hampshire Fish and Game,
418 railroad, DES, etc., and it is not going to be done tomorrow, it is going to take much longer. There
419 is more that will be done. We can ask him that if it takes till February, for example, we will
420 know in early March whether we got the money or not. If it is not passed, then we tell him not
421 to do anything else. He was also worried about the snow which will delay more.

422 **Alex:** It is voted on March 14.

423 **Cindy:** Application fees are excluded from this, so we know that this is only for the 4 items.

424 **Deb:** The email subject is also not relative.

425 ***Motion to approve payment up to \$20,500 for the 4 items listed by Dan Tatem which includes***
426 ***the wetland impact field work and written assessment, the additional survey work, the***
427 ***wetland permit application prep, coordination with NHDES, coordination with Fish & Game,***
428 ***and impact plans, and coordination with gas company for crossing and constructing trail over***
429 ***their easement, with regard to Phase IV made by Cindy Robertson. Seconded by JoCarol***
430 ***Woodburn. Motion passed.***

431 **Alex:** Can we do part of it and limit it to the survey work for \$6,500?

432 **Cindy:** I do not know.

433 **JoCarol:** I don't think we can do part of it, it all has to be done.

434 **Alex:** It is probably the whole thing or nothing.

435 **Cindy:** We are so far into Phase IV that I am inclined to keep pushing unless it truly becomes
436 insurmountable. I am willing to vote for this as one more step to get to Allenstown.

437 **JoCarol:** It is important that we move forward. It is a lot of money but is not extreme and is
438 doable. Tony LaCasse is also interested in a marathon event in the future on the trail in
439 coordination with Allenstown, for example. There are a lot of moving parts.

440 **Alex:** I want to know the application fees. While I share the sentiment, the showstopper would
441 be at the ballot box for the funding. Even if it is pushed a year, it may need to be done anyways.

442 **Phil:** The town may be doing a total reevaluation of the mapping as well to map every piece of
443 the town. This is on the ballot for March. These conservation areas should be included on the
444 new maps.

445

446 **X. Additional business brought up by the Conservation Commission:**

447 **Cindy:** The Keep it Native approved for the \$1500 (Increased quote from Paul Eaton) should
448 come from the Land Improvement Fund to be signed by André.

449 **Bridgette:** A reminder that the October 2023 meeting was moved to October 16.

450

451 ***Motion to adjourn at 6:44 by JoCarol Woodburn, seconded by Bob Better. Motion passed.***

452

453

454 **Non-Public Session** NH RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of a real
455 or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties who
456 interests are adverse to those of the general community.

457

458

459 *Minutes respectfully submitted by Bridgette Grotheer, Administrative Assistant*