

**Thornton Conservation Commission  
Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday, July 12, 2022 - 3:00 p.m. at  
Thornton Town Hall**

**Minutes**

Present: Mike Boisvert, Katri Gurney, Maryellen Sakura, Jerry Sobolewski

Absent: Al Lewis, Myrtle Lewis

Katri Gurney called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

**1. Minutes.** The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed electronically on June 15, 2022. A motion to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting as presented passed unanimously, with 4 members present at the time of the vote.

**2. Robin's Nest Project Board of Selectmen Meeting Update Preparation.**

- Katri Gurney will be presenting an update to the Board of Selectmen on June 13th with Mike Boisvert, Maryellen Sakura and Jerry Sobolewski attending as well to answer any questions.
- Jerry Sobolewski confirmed that the abutter, Dave Aylward and his wife, will also be attending.
- The Robin's Nest Discussion Outline prepared by Katri Gurney was reviewed and discussed. Discussed that the presentation should focus on providing a status report on the Commission's activities regarding this project and request that the Board of Selectmen review/approve the Memorandum of Understanding prepared by the Department of Transportation.
- Katri shared the handouts that will be given to the Board of Selectmen including Tax Map, sketch of proposed improvements, and pictures from a recent visit to Robin's Nest.

**2. DES Visit of Mike Boisvert Property.** Tyler Davidson from Department of Environmental Services inspected Mike Boisvert's property a couple weeks ago at 676 Upper Mad River Road to follow up on a complaint filed against him for possible violations of RSA 483-B pertaining to protected shoreland along the Mad River. He inspected the area that was cleared and took pictures. He left indicating he will be providing a report to Mike Boisvert in a few weeks. Mike Boisvert indicated he would share the report with the Thornton Conservation Committee.

**3. Thornton Night-Out Preparation.**

- Discussed how to raffle the small chain saw carved bear contributed by Cameron Bixby for fund raising. Katri Gurney said she will bring this up to the Board of Selectmen at tomorrow's meeting. If a raffle is acceptable, Katri Gurney stated that she could easily get hold of a roll of tickets for the raffle and the Committee agreed that \$5.00 would be reasonable. Maryellen Sakura indicated she would create a sign for the raffle.
- Jerry Sobolewski brought up if the Commission should purchase a larger bear as well for fund raising. Jerry estimates a larger bear could cost from \$750-\$1,000 and concerns were raised if enough raffle tickets could be sold to break even.
- Jerry Sobolewski said that he arranged for John Demler, from the New Hampshire Fish & Game, to help us tend to our table and educate the public regarding Bear Safety. Jerry Sobolewski added that it would be ideal to have a poster with pictures of bear break-ins.
- Mike Boisvert stated he would bring his tent to cover the table and help setup around 4:30PM and return to take it down. He'll bring brochure racks if they are needed.
- Maryellen Sakura stated she would contact the Police Department to reserve two tables.
- Myrtle Lewis has the leftovers from last year's "Protect the Pemi" brochures so it would be good to have them available to the public. She also has the Bear Safety materials provided to her by Jerry Sobolewski.

#### **4. Thornton Natural Resources Inventory.**

- An updated version of Thornton's NRI was distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Mike Boisvert worked on the Forest Resources section and has the Unfragmented Lands section left to do. Katri Gurney worked on the Water Resources section. Mike Boisvert noted that Katri did a fair amount of work to obtain the number of acres of Thornton's rivers, ponds and brooks using NH Granit. Mike Boisvert will research if a couple more maps such as Floodplains and Groundwater Resources can be retrieved to help with the content. Mike Boisvert's thoughts regarding assisting other Commission members to complete their sections is to setup up Zoom meetings to work on them together. Jerry Sobolewski stated he is assigned the 'Scenic Quality' section and needs assistance. Mike replied he will do some research to help him get started.
- Mike Boisvert contacted Kathy Menici, Planning Director for the Town of Thornton, and shared with her an updated version of Thornton's NRI so she is aware of the Commission's efforts. A Master Plan Committee has been formed to update Thornton's Master Plan in 2023 and thought she should be aware of the Commission's efforts so there is not a duplication of efforts. Kathy Menici replied that she would forward the information to the Chairperson of the Master Plan Committee.

**5. Thornton Conservation Commission Social/Potluck.** TCC members discussed rescheduling and looking at the dates of August 18th or 19th. Another option is to hold it after the September TCC meeting on September 13th if all members will be present. TCC members will work out a new day via email.

#### **6. Pemigewasset River Shoreland Protection.**

- Katri Gurney shared that Thornton's section of the Pemigewasset River is mentioned frequently in the Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Council [PRLAC] meetings as to actions being taken by a number of businesses along the Pemigewasset River. She is concerned that existing Zoning regulations and/or Ordinances for Thornton may not be strong enough to protect the Pemigewasset River.
- Mike Boisvert indicated that the Natural Resources Inventory has a section for recommendations for TCC to make once it's completed so perhaps as part of the Water Resources section that Katri Gurney is working on, she can review existing Zoning regulations and/or Ordinances and make recommendations to improve them. Another idea is to create a subcommittee to review existing regulations/ordinances and compare to best practices or what other Towns have to determine if any improvements are needed.
- Jerry Sobolewski shared that now would be a good time for such a review as the Planning Board is working on such a project.

**8. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:37 pm. The next Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, August 9th at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Boisvert, Thornton Conservation Committee Member