

**Thornton Conservation Commission
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, August 8, 2023 - 3:00 p.m. at
Thornton Town Hall**

Minutes

Present: Katri Gurney, Al Lewis, Myrtle Lewis, Jerry Sobolewski, Absent: Mike Boisvert

Myrtle Lewis called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

The July 11, 2023 TCC meeting was cancelled (not enough for a quorum).

1. Construction Project Updates

- Jerry Sobolewski attended the last Planning Board meeting (on July 20) and brought up the Central NH Climbers' Association desire to purchase a 5-acre lot at the end of Tripoli Road and to construct a one-acre gravel parking lot. Myrtle responded via email; it doesn't appear to require environmental permitting.
- We looked at the Owl's Nest Alteration of Terrain (AOT) permit application and drawings for the Pope Road access to groundwater wells and the next ON development of (proposed 100 houses). The hitch is that they don't have 100 acres of land for the proposed 100 houses. This is really a Thornton Planning Board/Zoning Board issue. In terms of the AOT, it appears comprehensive for the design drawings and the soils and endangered species information, etc. The application photos show what looks like a larger traffic road, rather than just an access road for groundwater well maintenance.
- No progress on The Preserve housing development site visit. Myrtle will bring this up at the next Planning Board meeting.
- 73 Mountain Road (off Millbrook) new landowner reached out to Myrtle via email to see if there were wetland maps available for the property. Myrtle referred her use an engineering contractor with a wetland scientist, who could determine if the area they want to build on requires a wetland permit.
- Myrtle got an email from an individual who owns land on Covered Bridge Road, who was interested in protecting the land with a conservation easement. Thornton does not have a conservation easement zoning available and the TCC does not have the ability to steward the land in perpetuity. Mike Boisvert (a member of the Pemi Baker Land Trust) reached out to this individual about going forward.
- Pemi River Campground expansion – the issue with this project is related to the flood zone area along the river. The FEMA flood zone maps are being updated.

2. Robin's Nest Improvement Project – Next Steps

- Joe Peznola sent an email to Brian Wilson, NH Department of Natural & Cultural Resources on August 3, to pitch the idea of the NH State Agencies taking over the Robin's Nest properties and developing and maintaining a boat launch and related recreational facilities (toilets, picnic tables, etc.). No response yet. This approach would eliminate the Town's liability and expense.

3. Thornton Natural Resources Inventory [NRI]

- The next phase of the NRI project is developing the Geological Information System [GIS] maps. We are working with Professor (Hyun Joong Kim) at Plymouth State University this fall. Myrtle asked for a list of maps wanted (including links) by Friday, August 18. We will be meeting with the PSU professor and students soon to go over the scope of work.

4. Thornton Night Out – August 1st

- The event went well. We had more people coming to the table than last year. Although there were much fewer Town Committee tables than before. We had a poster about the TCC and the Thornton habitat map of easels, which encouraged conversations. We enticed people with stickers, nature bingo cards and nature scavenger hunt cards. Jerry, Barb and Myrtle attended. Next year Katri offered to make personalized TCC stickers for giveaways.

5. Other Business

- We discussed as part of the TCC outreach efforts to offer the Town a guided hike. We chose Peaked Hill Pond and have a tentative date of September 30th at 9:00 AM. We will discuss more details at the next meeting.

6. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:04 pm. The next TCC meeting will be on Tuesday, September 12th at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Myrtle Lewis, Thornton Conservation Committee