

TOWN OF SKOWHEGAN  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
April 6, 2021  
6:00 P.M.  
Council Room, Municipal Building

PRESENT:

Tristen Hinkle, Chairman  
Kate Drummond, Vice Chairman  
Corey Hinkle  
Barry Sites  
Kevin McFadden  
Cynthia Kirk, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Dylan Engler, Corey Johnson, Kevin McFadden

PUBLIC PRESENT: Matt Keister

**1) QUORUM:**

Conservation Commission meeting called to order at 6:04 PM, quorum was present.

**2) MINUTES OF THE March 2, 2021 CONSERVATION MEETINGS TO BE APPROVED:**

Motion by Tristen Hinkle to approve the March 2, 2021 Conservation Committee minutes as written.  
Seconded by Kate Drummond. Motion passed 4-0.

**3) OLD BUSINESS:**

-Trails Work Update- Collaborating with Main Street and Americorp volunteers

Tristen said she met with Kristina Cannon from Main Street and Darrell from Lake George regarding projects that will be happening in town. She said the green space that they had talked about awhile ago looks like it actually might be happening. Kristina has put in a grant application for funding and Tristen told her that the Conservation Commission would be willing to volunteer time and possibly buy some of the things they might need such as trees or shrubs. Tristen said she has her students making bird houses and the afterschool program kids are making giant checkers and a big Jenga game.

Kristina Cannon also told her that the Americorp volunteers she has will be focusing on 4 major trails in town. They include one on the South side of town down to the river, the one across from the rec. center, one along the power lines and one at Lake George.

-Selecting a day to look at spaces in town that need work.

Tristen said she would like to pick a date for the Conservation Commission to go look at some of the potential project areas in town such as Whitten Brook, Currier Brook and Lake George.

Kate said we might just check on a couple landowners because the last time she was up at Whitten Brook she saw some posted signs. Barry said he can check on those with the town.

Kate also said that when she talked Greg Bean @ DEP he had mentioned some grant opportunities that they can look into to get funding to finish the Whitten Brook project. There is a smaller one that shouldn't take a lot of work. Then there is another one they can look into if they want to get a larger amount. These both happen in March. Greg Bean also told her that the company that worked on Whitten brook is still in business and we could talk with them about what else should be done. Tristen said she is going to reach out to Peter Whitkop since he worked on the original project and see if he would like to be involved or give them some advice.

It was decided that they would meet on April 11, 2021 @ 9:00 am at the Whitten Brook Kiosk.

**4) NEW BUSINESS:**

-Conservation Commission section on the Town of Skowhegan website

Tristen said she is still waiting on bio information from everyone. She said for now they could just put their mission statement and some links to events on the website. Kate said she will have her bio done for next meeting. Barry already sent his to Tristen.

-Overview of the proposed dam removal public hearing

Kate was on the public hearing meeting about the dam removal and her initial impression was that it was a good question and answer period. There was plenty of a chance for people to raise concerns and ask a lot of questions. Kate said there wasn't any discussion about policies at this time. There were also some comments about the fiscal aspects if the dams are removed. Tristen said that when she had talked with Kristina Cannon at Main Street, she was told that the engineers for the Run of River project said that even if the dam was removed it wouldn't have an impact on the project because the waves are mechanical. Matt said he doesn't know how it would not affect it in some way.

**5) UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES:**

None

**6) ADDITIONAL MEMBER & STAFF ITEMS:**

Motion by Kate Drummond to recommend appointing Matt Keister to the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Barry Sites. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion by Barry Sites to adjourn at 6:46 pm. Seconded by Kate Drummond. Motion passed 4-0.  
Next meeting scheduled for May 2021

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

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Chairman	
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