

47 two impoundments that he considers a priority. An assessment of the list of
48 impoundments would need to be done. They discussed the cost of this. Inspections are
49 usually done in June and November.

50
51 The Commission discussed whether they would serve as the interface and manage the
52 project, and provide the funding. They questioned whether the Commission should be
53 funding projects on Town-owned land that will protect Town infrastructure. Chair
54 Chouinard will speak with counsel regarding this.

55
56 *Mr. Broadwater moved to approve the funding of up to ten inspections at two hours*
57 *each at approximately \$3,000. Ms. Neff Ragsdale seconded the motion. A vote was*
58 *taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

59
60 **B. Spring Hill Farm Study: Final Payment Approval and Final Report Approval**

61
62 *Ms. Munson moved to approve the final invoice payment for Moosewood Ecological*
63 *LLC for the Spring Hill Farm ecological study for \$613.75. Mr. Broadwater seconded*
64 *the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

65
66 Chair Chouinard thanked Mr. Tranquillo for reviewing the draft documents and
67 collecting edits. The final draft was distributed to the Commission members, and other
68 edits have been made. The final report will be distributed to the Commission within a
69 day or two. They will ask Moosewood for their recommendations and then post the study
70 for the public.

71
72 The Commission commended Moosewood for the quality of the work they have done.

73
74 **C. Penacook Survey: Status and Payment Approval**

75
76 Chair Chouinard reported the Penacook survey is complete. He noted that a baseline was
77 needed on the conservation easement, but the area was never pinned. The Commission
78 will set placards inside the easement this week to delineate the boundary that has been
79 flagged. Mr. Tranquillo noted he notified the Rockingham County Conservation District
80 (RCCD) so that they can conduct the baseline.

81
82 *Mr. Broadwater moved to approve payment of \$2,150.00 to Promised Land Survey for*
83 *the contract work done on Penacook. Mr. Tranquillo seconded the motion. A vote was*
84 *taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

85
86 **D. North Woods Survey Work: Update and Payment Approval**

87
88 Chair Chouinard reported Eric Mitchell has been contracted to do survey work on both
89 sides of Ledge Road and has started doing recon work. He submitted an invoice for work
90 done on the East Ledge Road side.

91

92 *Ms. Neff Ragsdale moved to approve payment to Eric C. Mitchell & Associates of*
93 *\$3,220.00 for North Woods survey work. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was*
94 *taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*
95

96 **E. NRI, North Woods Ecological Survey and Open Space Master Plan: Update, Status**
97 **of Permission Requests, and Outreach Event**
98

99 Chair Chouinard said two rounds of letters have been sent out regarding the NRI.
100 Responses are being returned, although slowly. Moosewood is pleased with the number
101 of responses. Mr. Cejtin said he connected with Steven Lamonde regarding incorporating
102 road crossings and examining wildlife connectivity, including the broader regional
103 context. Mr. Lamonde was interested in the idea and would welcome help with the survey
104 work. Mr. Cejtin also mentioned the "Connect the Coast" study done by the Nature
105 Conservancy to Mr. Lamonde, which identifies the intersections of roads with the
106 primary and secondary wildlife corridors.
107

108 Chair Chouinard said letters were also sent to landowners in the North Woods, asking for
109 their participation in the detailed ecological survey. A couple of responses have been
110 received. Mr. Tranquillo noted this could be viewed as a first step toward outreach, by
111 informing residents of the work the Commission does.
112

113 Mr. Tranquillo suggested that the Commission call the owners of priority parcels
114 identified by Moosewood who do not respond to the letters, asking for their participation.
115

116 Ms. Snyder sent materials from Moosewood to the Commission, to determine if this is a
117 workable idea for the outreach event. She noted the flyer is finalized, which will be
118 distributed. The Commission discussed how to publicize the event and the logistics.
119

120 **F. Vital Records Expense Reimbursement**
121

122 Chair Chouinard has been conducting records research as part of the recent title-clearing
123 activities. He had two certificates pulled at a cost of \$15 each.
124

125 *Ms. Munson moved to reimburse Victor Chouinard \$30 for vital records expense. Mr.*
126 *Tranquillo seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor except Chair*
127 *Chouinard, who abstained. The motion passed 6-0-1.*
128

129 **G. Banner - Finalize Design**
130

131 Chair Chouinard has requested business cards be ordered. Mr. Tranquillo shared the latest
132 design for the banner and the Commission members chose their favorite.
133

134 *Mr. Broadwater moved that the Commission do a conditional approval up to \$200 to*
135 *produce a banner for Conservation Commission tabling events. Ms. Snyder seconded*
136 *the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*
137

H. Easement Language Update Workshop - Reschedule

Chair Chouinard rescheduled the easement language update workshop from March 20th to April 30th.

III. Regular Business

A. Minutes Approval

January 8 and January 25, 2024

Mr. Broadwater moved to approve the minutes of the January 8 and January 25, 2024, meetings as written. Mr. Tranquillo seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor except Mr. Sibley and Ms. Neff Ragsdale, who abstained. The motion passed 5-0-2.

February 13, 2024

On line 146, change (980-1) to (9-80-1).

Mr. Tranquillo moved to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024, meeting as amended. Mr. Broadwater seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor except Mr. Sibley and Ms. Neff Ragsdale, who abstained. The motion passed 5-0-2.

B. Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Neff Ragsdale presented the Treasurer’s Report for February:

Savings account:

\$ 9,752.07
45,000.00 November current use
26.46 interest
\$ 54,778.53 closing balance

Conservation Forestry account:

\$ 1,524.55 starting balance
4.14 interest
\$ 1,528.69 ending balance

Emerson Conservation Easement:

\$ 296.09 starting balance
00.81 interest
\$ 296.90 ending balance

Conservation Forestry CD: (5.35%)

\$ 42,260.03 starting balance

184 167.43 interest
185 \$ 42,427.46 ending balance

186
187 *Emerson Conservation Easement CD: (5.35%)*
188 \$ 10,565.01 starting balance
189 41.85 interest
190 \$ 10,606.86 ending balance

191
192 *Regular Conservation account CD: (5.35%)*
193 \$ 559,670.93 starting balance
194 2,217.28 interest
195 \$ 561,888.21 ending balance

196
197 *Conservation account CD:*
198 \$ 182,367.90 starting balance
199 723.94 interest
200 \$ 183,091.84 ending balance

201
202 ***Mr. Broadwater moved to accept the February Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr.***
203 ***Tranquillo seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion***
204 ***passed unanimously.***

205
206 **C. Spring Hill Farm**

207
208 Ms. Snyder reported they have not had an official meeting due to quorum issues for two
209 months. At the last working meeting, they discussed the Winter Festival. Members are
210 eager to review the Spring Hill Farm ecological survey. She and Chair Chouinard
211 installed the "dogs must be on leash" signs near the High Tunnel and Shepard Home
212 Road.

213
214 There is currently no chair or vice chair of the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee.
215 They might consider adjusting the membership, as there is no longer an Ag Committee,
216 yet there is a slot for a representative.

217
218 Ms. Snyder noted the budget needs to be finalized and presented to the Selectboard. She
219 said there are recommendations from the Selectboard to cut the budget and the
220 Committee would like to have input on these suggested cuts, so need to have an official
221 meeting. Ms. Theokas said the budget is being given to the Budget Committee on Friday.
222 She noted the Selectboard is looking at partnerships to fund SHFAC funding requests.

223
224 Ms. Snyder reported the plastic has come off of the High Tunnel as a result of the recent
225 storms.

226
227 **D. Wason Pond Conservation Area**

228

229 Ms. Snyder said the Committee discussed the second round of treatment of invasives and
230 is supportive of it. Mr. Tranquillo reported RCCD quoted the second round of treatment
231 at \$3,025. The Commission agreed that the original proposal was for two treatments and
232 the process should be completed. Members voiced their concerns regarding chemical
233 treatment of invasives. Chair Chouinard noted his desire is to use mechanical removal
234 going forward.

235
236 Ms. Theokas asked if the Commission would be willing to fund eight hours/week of
237 groundskeeping staff to do manual removal of invasives, with oversight. Chair
238 Chouinard pointed out removing the seed-producing plants will help avoid the spread of
239 invasives. Ms. Munson suggested reaching out to other towns to see how they are
240 dealing with invasives. Chair Chouinard pointed out other towns have community
241 involvement, and suggested any member of the Commission can remove invasives as
242 time permits. He suggested paying the Spring Hill Farm Trust for run time on the tractor
243 to pull invasives at Wason Pond.

244
245 Mr. Broadwater said per RCCD, there might be grant money available for invasive
246 control. He will follow up on this.

247
248 ***Mr. Tranquillo moved to approve payment of \$3,025 for the second application of***
249 ***chemicals for the treatment of the invasive plants at Wason Pond. Ms. Snyder***
250 ***seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor except Ms. Neff Ragsdale,***
251 ***who opposed the motion. The motion passed 6-1-0.***

252
253 **E. Easements, Monitoring, and Stewardship**

254
255 Mr. Tranquillo presented two proposals for a baseline at Pomp Road (\$2,094) and annual
256 monitoring of a parcel near Villager Road (\$359). Chair Chouinard said detailed
257 baselines are needed, so the Commission can take on monitoring in the future. The
258 Commission discussed what a monitoring report needs to contain and how these could be
259 completed moving forward. Mr. Tranquillo will compile a list of properties that need to
260 be monitored.

261
262 Ms. Theokas suggested educating landowners on monitoring their properties. She will
263 pursue the Commission being notified when a Town-owned property with a conservation
264 easement is purchased, including developments. She noted she is working with Building
265 Inspector Bunker to send out notices to property owners in developments every five
266 years and when a property changes hands regarding maintaining the no-cut buffer on
267 their property. She suggested recording a Community Access Public Television segment
268 to explain the benefits to landowners and abutters. Chair Chouinard noted enforcement
269 on private easements is problematic and a Town-wide approach to enforcement is
270 needed.

271
272 ***Mr. Broadwater moved to approve payment to RCCD of \$2,094 to produce a baseline***
273 ***for the Pomp Road parcel. Mr. Tranquillo seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All***
274 ***were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.***

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F. Strategic Land Protection

Chair Chouinard had no news, so a non-public meeting was not needed. He said things are moving forward on parcels that have been discussed at recent non-public meetings.

Ms. Theokas asked if this was the same as the Strategic Land Protection Committee, and Chair Chouinard noted that group never got off the ground. He explained this is for conservation land purchased with Conservation funds. Ms. Theokas said the cemetery groups have reported they will be out of land for plots in ten years and as a result, the Selectboard is considering re-forming the Strategic Land Protection Committee.

IV. Plan Reviews

None

V. Miscellaneous Business

Vehicular use on Class VI roads was clarified.

VI. Adjourn

Ms. Neff Ragsdale moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Broadwater seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary