

Town of Pelham, NH
Pelham Conservation Commission
6 Village Green
Pelham, NH 03076-3723

MEETING OF 05/12/21

Members Present: In-Person

Karen Mackay, Paul Gagnon
Lisa Loosigian, Kara Kubit (alt),
Al Steward (alt) Mike Gendreau,
Louise Delehanty

Members Present: On Zoom

Brandie Shydo

APPROVED 06/09/21

Members Absent:

Ken Stanvick, Dennis Hogan (alt)

Paul Gagnon brought the meeting to order at 7:05 p. m. This meeting is being conducted both in-person and on Zoom. Seven members attended the meeting in-person and 1 member attended the meeting on Zoom. Mr. Gagnon began by reading a lengthy introduction into the record which described how to conduct meetings according to the Covid-19 pandemic emergency. The emergency procedures have been authorized by Governor Sununu. See attachment # 1 for a copy of the meeting rules for right to know compliance during the pandemic. All votes during this meeting will be roll call votes. The member on Zoom is alone in the room in which they are participating in this meeting. Mr. Gagnon appointed Mr. Steward as a voting member for this meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Motion: (Gendreau/Steward) to elect Karen Mackay as Secretary.

Vote: 7-0 in favor. Roll call vote.

Motion: (Mackay/Delehanty) to elect Mike Gendreau as Co-Chair.

Vote: 7-0 in favor. Roll call vote.

Motion: (Loosigian/Steward) to elect Paul Gagnon as Chair.

Vote: 7-0 in favor. Roll call vote.

Mr. Gagnon said this would probably be his last year as Chair of this Commission. This year the Chair of Forestry and Zoning Board of Adjustment were not reappointed to their boards by the Selectmen. Mr. Gagnon thought that perhaps his position as a member of Conservation may be safer if he was not the Chair. He will be working on 4 land deals this year and will be working on a rewrite of the wetland conservation district (WCD) ordinance with Planning.

MINUTES:

Motion: (Steward/Delehanty) to approve the minutes of April 14, 2021.

Vote: 4-0 in favor. Roll call vote. Loosigian, Gagnon and Gendreau abstained.

WALK-IN ITEMS:

Ms. Delehanty is working to reschedule Mr. Rick Chormann. He works for the state and was scheduled to present to us about stone walls last year. He was postponed because of the pandemic. Ms. Delehanty has emailed him both last month and this month and has not heard back at this time. She will continue to work to have Mr. Chormann come to a meeting.

Pelham Cleanup Day will be held at Veteran's Memorial Park on Saturday, June 5, 2021. Rain date June 6, 2021. Trail maintenance, trash cleanup and park beautifying will take place. Ms. Dena Hoffman will be organizing the event. Lunch will be provided if residents preregister. Residents can sign up a pelhamweb.com and follow the links to the sign up page or they can contact Ms. Hoffman at dhoffman@pelhamweb.com.

Ms. Delehanty read an article about the increase in gardening during the pandemic. There is new interest in gardening and outdoor activities and a change in attitude toward nature. Another article described 'forest bathing' which is spending time in the forest or outdoors and being present in the moment and opening the senses to your surroundings. This has been described by Milford Recreation Department.

Ms. Shydo announced she will be leaving the Commission. She is moving out of town at the end of May and will be submitting her resignation at that time. She thanked members for a great experience and teaching her so much over the past years. Mr. Gagnon thanked her for her service. She has been a terrific member and has contributed a lot to our Commission. He said we would be sorry to see her go and wished her luck. Other members echoed Mr. Gagnon's sentiments. Ms. Mackay will find out how to proceed with filling the vacancy. She thought a member serving as an alternate should be moved up to a permanent member then any new person should be brought in as an alternate. Members already serving have put a lot of work into this job and should be given the position ahead of a new applicant.

Mr. Gagnon gave us a sneak peek at a new program to be run through Forestry. The program will be a forest patch program. Ms. Linda Frish Simpson has been heading this program. She is a trail adopter. She is formulating a spreadsheet with the names and length of trails and designing and buying the patches. There are 20 miles of defined trails in Pelham. Residents can record the date of each hike and when all trails have been hiked the person can get the patch. There will be a formal roll out of this program. This program should be promoted on the Facebook page after the formal roll out.

Ms. Shydo set up the Facebook page and was one of the managers along with Mr. Gendreau. Now it is simple to post to the page. Ms. Kubit volunteered to work with Mr. Gendreau to manage the page. Mr. Gendreau will add the cleanup day to the Facebook page.

Mr. Gagnon asked for a volunteer to work with Mr. Ed Gleason to preserve trees at the town cemetery. Some of the trees are diseased and Mr. Gleason would like to bring in an arborist. Mr. Gleason may need to get funding for this through the Budget Committee. He would like Conservation Commission support. Mr. Gagnon described that Mr. Gleason helped the Commission pass the 3 million dollar bond several years ago. Ms. Delehanty will contact Mr. Gleason to see how Conservation can help.

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be June 9, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: (Gendreau/Steward) to adjourn.

Vote: 7-0 in favor. Roll call vote.

Adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Mackay,
Recording Secretary

Attachment #1

A Checklist To Ensure Meetings Are Compliant With The Right-to-Know Law During The State Of
Emergency

05/12/2021 Conservation Commission Meeting

As Chair of the Conservation Commission, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that the meeting will be held in Sherburne Hall should anyone choose to attend in person. However, participants may also participate remotely which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. In accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting.¹ All members of the Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and participate in this meeting by dialing the following phone number:

646-876-9923

or by entering this website address: www.zoom.us selecting **Join Meeting** and entering the meeting ID and password listed below

Meeting ID# 839 7589 9622 Passcode 496748

Please provide your first and last name to the attendant.

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the Town website: www.pelhamweb.com on the Conservation Commission page.

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-508-3089 or email at: jgreenwood@pelhamweb.com .

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the
Right-to-Know law

¹ Many public bodies are utilizing video teleconferencing technology, such as Zoom, to ensure the electronic meeting comply with the Right-to-Know law and any applicable due process requirements. In certain circumstances, a regular business meeting of a public body may be conducted utilizing audio-only technology. If you have any questions about the appropriateness of the technology utilized to conduct your meeting, please consult your agency counsel or the Attorney General's Office.