



TOWN OF PELHAM

6 Village Green
Pelham, NH 03076

PELHAM FORESTRY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES – **APPROVED on 05/22/2023 – VOTE 5-0**

THURSDAY
04/20/23
7PM-9:25pm

PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT:
Sherburne Hall, 6 Village Green, Pelham, NH 03076

Attendance

Committee Members

Mike Gendreau
Raymond Brunelle
Paul Gagnon
Linda Irish-Simpson (non-voting will abstain)
Bob Lamoureux

Start of Meeting – 7PM Pledge of Allegiance

Officers Voted: Chair – Mike Gendreau (Vote: motion Paul G, second Bob L 4-0-1)
Vice Chair - Ray Brunelle (Vote: motion Bob L, second Mike G 4-0-1)

Discussion on Treasurer: Mike G read into the record two emails. First from Attorney Ratigan & the second from Attorney Stephen Buckley the NH Municipal Association. Bob L motion to remove based on legal advice. Paul G asked for discussion. He agreed Ms. Gallaher is not a treasurer but should be kept on for recordkeeping. Bob L asked that we table, and Paul G agreed. Paul G asked that we consider keeping her on as a record keeper. Paul to provide committee members spreadsheets by the end of the day on Friday. Explanation by Paul G via question from Ray B about how budgeting used to work. No vote / tabled.

Discussion on Secretary: Paul G asked if we were going to nominate a secretary. Paul G pointed out Stefenie Cote who had offered to assist in the past. Bob L asked about using a town secretary. Mike G agreed to write minutes for the first meeting. Mike G reached out to Ms. Cote. Ms. Cote spoke saying she would be interested but meetings need to stay on track. Ray B stated we need to keep minutes within the agenda and flow. No vote / tabled.

Contact Person Needed: Mike G to have his contact information via the Forestry website.

Forestry Committee Meeting Schedule: Meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of each month @ 7PM @ Sherburne Hall. (Vote: motion Mike G, second Paul G 4-0-1)



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eBikes Discussion: Paul G read the State of NH state law & explained his reasons for recommending eBikes for class 1 & 2 on Pelham trails. Paul G asked for a vote but ended in discussion with no vote. Ray V suggested we may not even have a problem. Linda Irish-Simpson stated she isn't sure a bike can get above 20 MPH & how do we regulate it. She also asked about senior trails. Paul G stated we can't really enforce & manage. Ray V acknowledged & praised the designated senior trail areas that are in place now and that he feels we shouldn't overregulate if we don't have a problem. Ray G to reach out to the police department and residents and report back. Bob L asked the public to please reach out to us.

Town Forester Price Increase: Paul G explained price increases in detail. (Vote: motion Paul G to accept new rates from Full Circle Forestry LLC as presented in letter from January 6th, 2023, second Ray V 4-0-1). (Vote: motion Paul G that we approve expenditure of \$3,900 for a forest management plan for the Moose Pond, Calitri & Quarry lots for 115 acres with Full Circle Forestry, second Bob L 4-0-1). (Vote: motion Mike G that Paul G will (continue) to be the liaison to the town forester and that anyone on the committee can reach out and Eric Radlof will communicate with all committee members, second Ray V 4-0-1)

Little Island Pond Discussion: Paul G spent time relaying to us his travels around town with the fire department. Some areas are great (via Nick Murphy) so a bit narrow but able to get to the ends of most trails. Nick Murphy asked boulders to be removed at Gumpas and Cutler Spalding Conservation Areas. Paul G stated the fire department asked for a gate at the end of Natures Way & after removing the boulders. Paul G asked us to appropriate \$500 for a gate for Natures Way (he mentioned we already agreed top \$850 for gate at Cutter Woods on Sherburne Road). Bob L stated bring on the master plan committee he stated he has received many complaints about gates, graffiti in the woods and too many signs. He asked the public to reach out letting us know their opinion. He felt we are wasting our money, not in all circumstances, but slows down the process of rescue and fire substantially. Paul G stated we should ask the fire department. Discussion carried on by all members. Mike G offered to speak with the fire department in the days ahead for their recommendations on a gate, locked or deterrent. Paul G cautioned that the fire department has no responsibility for trail repair damage. That they (fire department) would likely like all gates removed. Paul G stated he has spent a lot of time repairing trails and he is not willing to continue to do that (Class A trails and Costa area). Paul G stated the neighbors are the ones who asked for the boulders to be put there. Ray B stated he is concerned about Jeeps and bigger vehicles, but he wonders if there is access internally from other areas & not sure if there really is a problem there. Mike G tends to agree it could be locals internally using these trails. Tim Kennedy laid out the specifics that Nick Murphy asked for on the dimensions of the safety vehicles. (Vote: motion Paul G to spend \$500 to add gate and move boulders at the end of Natures Way, no second) (Vote: motion Mike G to have boulders removed, second Bob L 4-0-1) Bob L states we will address quickly if there is an issue with a deterrent if needed.

Linda Irish-Simpson brought up an email with pictures from Deb Waters about a wetland violation (appears to be some sort of wheeled vehicle) & some very muddy areas in this area and asking that two (2) puncheon bridges be built. \$350 for 2 bridges, \$100 wetland seed mix & \$100 for post & signage. Ray B stated that in his 2+ years as a subcommittee member that through multiple site walks that there is always talk of wetland infractions / violations & due to this time of year we



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could find up to 50 of these situations. He suggested we do a site walk and decide as a team on recommendations as a board without any outside influence. Bob L questioned what are and what is not wetlands and if we are unsure. Paul G asked if we should be hiring wetland scientists. Bob L is concerned if we do not know what exactly we are addressing & if we need permits or not. Linda Irish-Simpson stated this is a senior walking trail and it should be addressed sooner rather than later. A date was set for a site walk. A date was agreed upon for Tuesday 04/25/23 at 5PM. Mike G to reach out to have it posted 24 hours before meeting.

Trail Update: Linda Irish-Simpson updated trail adopter spreadsheet. Nothing to report regarding any major damage. Mike G asked how many trail adopters we currently have and was told maybe 15.

Hike Challenge Update: Linda Irish-Simpson updated that there are two (2) new people who completed the hike challenge in March 2023 and to date one (1) in April 2023.

Dredge & Fill Application / Permit: Paul G requested \$400 dredge and fill permit for work already completed. (Vote: motion Ray B to accept the \$400 application fee, second Bob L 4-0-1). Bob L did ask Paul G please track his time, so we know what kind of time goes into these applications. Paul G said he is about 3-4 hours into it now. He would get back to us on the amount of time and that we might have to take turns completing these applications.

Trail Camera Movement: Paul asked to have moved one trail camera from Tower Hill Road to Costa Conservation. He feels based on his own personal observation that he has seen side by side usage. He asked if we could have Don Sturtvant to move the camera. Bob L asked if any of the footage can be used by the police department as evidence. Paul G said the short answer is no. The police department worked with verbiage on signs, but they cannot use it for enforcement. Mike G asked if the verbiage on the signs, then allowed the police to enforce and Paul G said he doesn't know. He believes that that they must but was unaware. Discussion on cameras and Paul G stated that if the cameras are moved 2-3 more times and nothing comes from it well then, we may no longer need to spend monthly costs on cameras. Nick Spanos came to speak and in previous meetings he had asked about the details of these cameras and offered to move the cameras free of charge. Paul was to get Nick Spanos Don Sturtvant's contact so they could coordinate. Ray B said we will need to inform the police department where the new camera will be placed. The area would be the Costa Conservation area main trail that goes through the yellow trail. It should be pointed at that bridge. (Yellow Trail / Deer Run). Mike G is concerned about any issues that could come from moving the cameras from someone other than Mr. Sturtvant and who will be responsible for it.

(Vote: motion Paul G to approve Nick Spanos to move the camera from Tower Hill Road to the Costa Conservation area after he confirms with Mr. Sturtvant that that's acceptable (Paul G will text Nick his phone number), second Bob L. 3-1-0. Mike G voted no)

Bylaws: Mike G was brought to his attention there is no current bylaws and that over the next few months we will work on as a committee write and adopt bylaws. Links were emailed to Mike G via Heather Corbett as a framework for ideas but asked as we all work together. Bob L



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said let's do this. Paul G said we need a volunteer. Mike G asked if Heather Corbett would be so inclined, and she accepted. No motion needed. Thanks to Heather C from Mike G

February 2023 Meeting Minutes: (Vote: motion Paul G to accept the meeting minutes. Second Ray V (2-0-3) Yes Ray B and Paul G, abstained Mike G, Linda Irish Simpson, and Bob L

Open Forum: James Fisher had 3 items he wanted to bring up.

(1) eBikes, he rides both style bikes. His times riding on the trails stated no complaints. All appear to get along. He doesn't find it an issue.

(2) Brought a picture of a tree with two signs on it. He would like us to consider replacing them with more attractive signs (brought examples). He said he would be willing to buy the materials and make them on his own time. Linda Irish-Simpson stated the number of signs were added due to inexperienced hikers so more were added for safety. Mr. Fisher understood. He said he is willing to make some signs still. Ray B asked if he would like to bring in some examples and Mr. Fisher said he would. Some back and forth discussion with Linda Irish-Simpson and Mr. Fisher. Bob L suggested moving forward with technology we could consider removing some but also agreed that with the hike challenge he isn't sure what he would do. He liked both new signs and making it simple. He also said he would like to see a sign saying WELCOME TO PELHAM. Ray B said he feels it is the goal to make every area senior friendly and he isn't sure that we have the amount of numbers for this and to continue to ask the public for input. Linda Irish-Simpson did say that there is no way we could do it everywhere but to encourage new hikers we really should make it very simple with abundant signs. Mike G would love to see signs that Mr. Fisher is willing to make but also sees both sides of the debate. He also hears from a number of people about the overuse of signs. He feels it is a balancing act we are going to have to keep communicating about.

(3) He would like to see what it would take to remove downed trees in Beaver Brook so people could safely use the brook as a great resource. The town residents could utilize and enjoy it. Bob L is concerned about the legalities of it. Suggests if it is something we could do it should be a venture between multiple committees.

Stefenie Cote - stated she likes the ideas of new signs and maybe with some of the trails we have with less signs perhaps we could try these new signs. Linda Irish-Simpson suggested on the senior trails we will need more signs. Some back and forth with Stefenie and Linda Irish Simpson. She asked if people are allowed to bring kayaks to use in the woods. We all agreed we don't have anything official stating no.

Tim Kennedy – Said he has run into two (2) people with kayaks in the Gumpas Pond Conservation Area.

Walk-In Items: (Vote: motion Paul G to approve the \$16.99, second Bob L 4-0-1). Bob L stated moving forward any money we appropriate that a vote will be made by committee members then once the work is finished the invoice along with meeting minutes showing approved will be sent to the town treasurer and a check will be sent out.

Adjourn: 9:25PM (Vote: motion to adjourn meeting Bob L, second Ray V 4-0-1)



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