

**Pelham Forestry Commission**  
**NON-APPROVED Meeting Minutes for March 25, 2024**

**Location:** Town Hall – New Meeting Room

**Members in attendance:**

Mike Gendreau, Chair  
Raymond Brunelle, Vice Chair  
Linda Irish Simpson, Member  
Robert Lamoureux, Member

Kimberly Abare, Selectmen’s Representative

**Members absent:**

Paul Gagnon

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes Review for January 22, 2024**

MOTION: To approve the January 22, 2024, meeting minutes with changes to Spaulding Hill Road permit update.  
Lamoureux/Irish Simpson 4-0-0 vote

**Open Forum**

The Chair opened the meeting to the public for open forum

Al Steward Chair to the Pelham Conservation Commission came forward with a presentation to create a picnic area on a three (3) acre piece of land that abuts Mammoth Road and Beaver Brook.

Mr. Steward would like to dedicate the new picnic area in honor of Mr. Bill McDevitt and name the picnic area, “The Bill McDevitt Picnic Area”.

Mr. Steward discussed the property was received for taxes, dates back to 1961-1965 and the Town Assessor made sure the Town has a deed on it.

Mr. Steward discussed that there is parking for 10 cars off the Mammoth Road side and parking for 4 cars on the Beaver Brook side where one could drop in a canoe and kayak.

Mr. Steward presented to the Pelham Board of Selectmen and this item still needs to go in-front of the Pelham Planning Board sometime in May 2024.

Mr. Steward discussed that this is part of the 2023 Pelham Master Plan and if it come to fruition would like support from the Forestry Commission, Planning Board and the Pelham Conservation Commission. Mr. Steward discussed that the funding can be solicited from the VFW, Council of Aging and Forestry Commission.

Mr. Lamoureux wanted to know who the owners of the property were.

Mr. Steward replied that the Board of Selectmen own the property, not the Pelham Conservation Commission.

Mr. Brunelle thought this was a great idea and can be enjoyed by all, including the seniors, of our community.

Mrs. Irish-Simpson thought this was a great idea.

The Chair asked if there was anyone else in the public that would like to speak in Open Forum, hearing none, the Chair closed Open Forum and brought the discussion back to the Board.

### **New Business**

#### **Warrant Article 14 -**

Mr. Gendreau offered discussion on the Warrant Article 14 and how it received a favorable vote by the Town to create a Forestry Trail Subcommittee. Mr. Gendreau discussed that those who are interested can fill out a volunteer application that can be found on the Town website.

**MOTION:** To create a Forestry Trail subcommittee in accordance with the Warrant Article 14 to include a Chair for a three (3) year term and four (4) members To have three (3) year terms, two (2) year terms and one (1) year term.  
Brunelle/Lamoureux

Discussion on the Motion:

Mr. Lamoureux offered discussion to have a Vice Chair and Chair on the new Forestry Trail Subcommittee and to have all the applicants interviewed by the Forestry Commission because the warrant article 14 instructed to do so.

Mrs. Linda Irish Simpson offered discussion that the board was rushing the whole process, Paul is not here to chime in and the way it is written should be discussed more

in reference to the safety and access. She believed it is up to the Forestry Commission to decide the Chair and Vice Chair and definitions need to be discussed and this should not be rushed into and felt the board should not appoint subcommittee members yet.

Mr. Brunelle believed it was the Forestry Commissions duty to move forward with the Warrant Article 14 because this is what the town voted on.

Mrs. Abare raised a point of order and advised the Board members to go forward with a roll call vote on motions and the Vice Chair votes first and the Chair last.

MOTION still stands

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Raymond Brunelle – Yes

Bob Lamoureux- Yes

Linda Irish Simpson- No

Mike Gendreau- Yes

3-1-0 Vote – Motion passed

Mr. Brunelle offered discussion that it would be proper procedures where the Warrant Article 14 establishes a new subcommittee it would be appropriate to dissolve the old Forestry subcommittee.

**MOTION:** To dissolve the old Forestry subcommittee  
Brunelle/Gendreau

Discussion on Motion:

Mr. Brunelle discussed that the old Forestry subcommittee was not created by a vote, has not met in some time and should be dissolved.

Mr. Lamoureux discussed according to Town Council the Forestry Commission does not have jurisdiction to create a subcommittee and only the Conservation Commission does. He felt the proper way for the Forestry Commission to have jurisdiction to create a Subcommittee is to put it on a ballot and let the Town vote.

Motion still stands

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Raymond Brunelle - Yes

Bob Lamoureux- Yes

Linda Irish Simpson- Yes

Mike Gendreau- Yes

4-0-0 Vote – Motion passed

Mr. Brunelle offered discussion in reference to having many different logs on the books in reference to money transactions and would like to see the monies be fully transparent.

**MOTION:** To have no spending of monies to occur unless it is supported by a Motion by the Forestry Commission and noted within the minutes and Up to One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) as a cap and anything further needs A vote by the Forestry Commission  
Brunelle/Lamoureux

Discussion on Motion:

Mr. Lamoureux discussed that all amounts of money should be requested with the Forestry Commission and there should not be a One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) cap.

Mrs. Irish Simpson offered discussion and felt that if someone needs anything then One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) should be fine as long as they reach out to the Chair for the Board is fiscally responsible.

Mr. Gendreau discussed that all money should be accounted for and be fully transparent when doing so.

Mrs. Abare raised a point of order and advised the Board that the Motion needs to be amended.

Mr. Brunelle amended his Motion.

**MOTION AMENDED:** To have no spending of monies to occur unless it is supported By a Motion by the Forestry Commission and noted within the Minutes

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Raymond Brunelle - YES

Bob Lamoureux - YES

Linda Irish Simpson- NO

Mike Gendreau- YES

3-1-0 VOTE – Amended Motion passed

Mr. Brunelle offered discussion on a proposal for a Treasury Report.

**MOTION:** To create a Treasury Report for transparency purposes  
Brunelle/Gendreau

Discussion on Motion:

Mrs. Irish Simpson wanted to know who would be responsible for the reporting

Mr. Gendreau being Chair will be responsible for the Treasury Report

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Raymond Brunelle - YES

Bob Lamoureux- YES

Linda Irish Simpson- YES

Mike Gendreau- YES

4-0-0 VOTE- Motion passed

Mr. Brunelle offered discussion on communications and correspondence on all Forestry matters

**MOTION:** To have any and all correspondence Forestry related with DES (Department Of Environmental Services), NRPC (Nashua Planning Commission), via Email and all phone calls be copied to include the Chair and Vice Chair of The Forestry Commission to ensure full transparency.

Brunelle/Gendreau

Discussion on Motion:

Mr. Lamoureux supports

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Raymond Brunelle - YES

Bob Lamoureux- YES

Linda Irish Simpson- YES

Mike Gendreau - YES

4-0-0 VOTE – Motion passed

Mr. Brunelle offered discussion on the Forestry Advisor role and how it was not voted on by the Forestry Commission.

**MOTION:** To dissolve and or eliminate the Forestry Advisor role

Brunelle/Lamoureux

The Board had no discussion on this Motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Raymond Brunelle – YES

Bob Lamoureux - YES

Linda Irish Simpson - YES

Mike Gendreau - YES

4-0-0 VOTE Motion passed

**Warrant Articles 12 and 13-**

The Chair offered discussion on the Warrant Article 12 and that the Town voted in favor. The Class A Trail is now reclassified back to a Class VI Road.

The Chair then discussed Warrant Article 13 and that the Town did not vote in favor of the warrant article. The Class A Trail would remain a Class A Trail and although the Forestry Commission has no jurisdiction over the trails, he felt that the Forestry Commission does have land within those areas that need to be protected. He wanted to hear back from the Board members and the public on their thoughts and ideas on protecting these areas.

The Chair opened the meeting to the Public.

Mr. Jim Fisher of 47 Seavey Road, Pelham, NH and Mr. John Picard of 46 South Shore Drive, Pelham, NH came forward to address the Board.

Mr. Picard offered discussion in reference to Tower Hill Road that is now converted back to a Class VI Road. He discussed an illegal break about 60 inches correction 72 inches. He proposed that the gate that is currently existing in the middle of Tower Hill Road be moved and relocated to the bottom of the hill near Gumpas Hill Road across from the gate that goes up to the cell tower. He also offered discussion on new signage for the gates to be town specific stating Class VI Road.

Mr. Picard submitted a packet of examples of many choices of signs and felt the members can come up with a template to create a new sign to properly mark the Class VI Road. He said the signs can say more specific to the Forestry's needs and can be purchase off Amazon for around \$26.00 per sign and or \$29.00 for reflective.

Mr. Fisher offered discussion of areas of concerns. He stated during the fire and logging operation the lands never repaired, eleven (11) rock walls were not repaired and that invited the vehicles. He discussed how he has frontage on his land and his rock wall keeps out the wheeled vehicles. He stated to offer more protection in that area he would volunteer his time to help with signs and his machinery to help with closing the stone wall and adding gates where necessary along Tower Hill Road to separate the other trails. He wants to see everyone come together doing these preventative measures. He believes everyone should work together.

Mr. Gendreau offered discussion that new signs would help to keep wheeled vehicles off the trails and the Forestry owns two (2) trail cameras to also help keep wheeled vehicles out.

Mrs. Irish Simpson offered discussion from Gowing Road to Tower Hill Road that is private property of the Burton property. She said if you take a right and at the end put a gate the owners would have no access to their property. She believes that the Board of Selectmen need to make these decisions to protect and wanted to know if these fixes would be presented to the Board of Selectmen. She had concerns coming in from Gowing as a Class VI Road the trail to the left should be closed off.

Mr. Gendreau offered discussion that private land requires the Forestry Commission to reach out to the owners of land.

Mr. Picard offered discussion that the trail should be closed off with a gate and gated off for emergency vehicles only with a smiley face sign, new signage and a camera.

Mrs. Irish Simpson agreed and wanted to get the camera up right away and commented on trails being closed for the mud season

Mr. Brunelle offered discussion on taking a site walk to visit the problem areas and fix the stone walls, look at the gates and come up with some new signage.

The Chair closed the meeting to the public and brought the discussion back to the Board.

The Chair discussed possible site walk dates and all members agreed to have the site walk on April 20, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. and to park at the Gowing parking lot.

Mr. Lamoureux offered discussion that there be no voting on the site walk

## **Hike Challenge Update – Linda Irish Simpson**

Mrs. Irish Simpson updated the Board with the Hike Challenge

There was one (1) new person from Hudson, NH

Fifty (50) individuals total

Mrs. Irish Simpson would like to offer a winter hike challenge and have an attentive hike patch with a snow scene on it to be earned upon completion. She stated she would volunteer for this and would design the patch. She said the cost for the patch is Thirty-Five Dollars (\$35.00) for the digital version.

Mrs. Abare raised a point of order and advised the Board that a hike item is perfectly fine to ask monies

**MOTION:** To approve a withdrawal total of Thirty-Five Dollars (\$35.00) to Linda Irish Simpson to fund a new snow trail patch digital version  
Lamoureux/Gendreau

### **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Raymond Brunelle - YES

Bob Lamoureux - YES

Linda Irish Simpson- YES

Mike Gendreau- YES

4-0-0 VOTE - Motion passed

### **Walk-In Items:**

Mrs. Irish Simpson offered discussion on the All-Trail App. She found a free one called Trail Finder that is only trails in NH mapping. She said she would volunteer her time and work with NRPC on the maps and document and submit the trial items to Trail Finder. She discussed that she did not want to post the trails on the Trail Finder without the Boards approval and feels this could be another way to promote the trials.

Mr. Lamoureux offered discussion and believed that the Pelham walking trails should be for the Pelham residents only for they are the taxpayers. He did not support other trial walkers coming in from other Towns.

Mr. Brunelle discussed his concern advertising the trails on the internet everywhere. He discussed the CTC Trail working with facets of trails that may fall under them. He is not sure if he approves.



Mrs. Abare raised a point of order and advised the Board that there cannot be cross talking over each other and any and all discussions needs to go through the Chair

Mrs. Irish Simpson offered discussion that she disagrees, and trails are for everybody. She discussed that the trails are public and serves as a tool that people would want to use

Mr. Brunelle offered discussion that for him, less is more and with logging then putting up a Kiosk then a parking lot, he is not in favor of the over market stuff

Mr. Gendreau discussed to table the item for now

Mr. Brunelle had no walk-in items for the meeting

Mr. Lamoureux had no walk-in items for the meeting

Mr. Gendreau offered discussion on two (2) walk-in items.

Item 1: He discussed the movement of \$10,000 from one fund to another. He wanted to discuss that when monies are requested for payments the Chair is to be the contact to reach out

Item 2: He wanted to discuss the Beaver dam breach item. The beaver dam breach was not vandalized and was an act of nature. He read from the Forestry Letter submitted to the Town. He gave thanks to Mr. Bob Lamoureux for getting an expert (Derek Pomerleau) to meet with them the very next day. He took a site walk on March 24, 2024 and would like to see the beaver deceiver opened.

Mr. Gendreau would like to reimburse Mr. Derek Pomerleau for his expert services and the Forestry Commission has the invoice.

**MOTION:** To pay invoice for Derek Pomerleau in the amount of \$280.00

Lamoureux/Gendreau

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Raymond Brunelle - YES

Bob Lamoureux- YES

Linda Irish Simpson – YES

Mike Gendreau - YES

4-0-0 VOTE - Motion passed

Mr. Gendreau offered discussion and gave thanks to Mr. Jim Fisher, Mr. Jim Fisher's son and Mr. Tim Kennedy for helping the Town with removal of dump trail items from one location to another location to be disposed of properly.

Mr. Gendreau offered discussion and gave thanks to all the Master Plan subcommittee members for all their hard work on the new 2023 Master Plan.

MOTION: To adjourn meeting at 8:35 p.m. Lamoureux/Brunelle

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Raymond Brunelle - YES

Bob Lamoureux - YES

Linda Irish Simpson- YES

Mike Gendreau - YES

4-0-0 VOTE Motion passed

The March 25, 2024, Forestry Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Danielle Masse Quinn on March 26, 2024





