

**Minutes of the Peterborough Conservation Commission Meeting  
April 18, 2019, Peterborough Town House, 7 p.m.**

Present: Matt Lundsted, Liz Thomas, Francie Von Mertens, Robert (Woody) Wood

Minutes for two February meetings were approved (there was no March meeting), and an invoice (\$818.22) for signs with stands for the salamander crossing on Union Street that alert drivers to salamanders and volunteers in the road.

**MacDowell Dam Master Plan comment**

As part of the public comment period, Von Mertens drafted ConCom comment for discussion. Comments centered on the absence of certain subjects: Climate change mitigation; dog feces as water quality issue given flooding of trails; invasive species protocol regarding herbicides; trail-free areas where exemplary wildlife areas exists; recommending water testing for mercury. The letter also recommended a summary highlighting and prioritizing actionable items. The Master Plan was in large part an inventory; It was difficult to sift out actual management plans with a look to the next 25 years.

**Wood will work the draft into a final form based on suggested changes.**

Conservation Easement monitoring 2019

As requested by Richard Pendleton, the group discussed hiring Richard for another round of easements. He monitored 7 last year: 3 Monahan easements, Fellows, Ridgewood, Woodmaster/Longhill, and Millon.

Lundsted made the following motion (Wood second):

**Move to approve hiring Richard Pendleton to monitor seven easements in 2019, including several that have not been monitored recently. Expenditure not to exceed \$2,000.**

The motion passed.

Regarding digitizing easement records, Lundsted will recommend to Fash that digitizing be added to an intern's jobs.

**Neonicotinoids**

Given the collapse of insect populations, including pollinators, and recent news from UNH that the state's native bees are in steep decline, Von Mertens suggested the ConCom resurrect outreach to homeowners and landscapers about "neonics." Wood suggested that herbicides typically applied by lawn services be included (Dicamba, 2, 4D, glyphosate included). As a first step, she determined through Seth MacLean that the town and schools do not use pesticides or herbicides.

Lundsted suggested a brochure that lists reasons for ceasing use, and alternatives. Pointing out that they have been banned elsewhere (towns, countries).

**Wood will research herbicides; Von Mertens neonics.**

**Other**

**Master Plan** Lundsted said he was willing to serve on the subcommittee updating the Master Plan housing chapter if the meetings aren't too numerous.

**Downtown parking lot.** The Parks Committee is working on landscaping and will confer with the ConCom as planting decisions are made.

**NRI** Woody will read Rick Van de Poll's first report and report back if there are follow-up steps the ConCom should take.

/fvm