

**Peterborough Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**March 15, 2018, Peterborough Town House, 7 p.m.**

Present: Jo Anne Carr, Swift Corwin, John Kerrick, John Patterson, Robert Wood, Francie Von Mertens; Select Board liaison Tyler Ward

January's minutes were approved, as was reimbursing Swift Corwin for lumber for the Evans Flats and Cranberry Meadow Trails boardwalks was approved (\$745).

**Conservation Easement**

John Kerrick explained potential issues with a septic field encroaching into easement area. He will contact the landowner to ensure the system relates solely to agriculture, a permitted use, and request a copy of the lease agreement with the farmers running the agricultural operation. The Conservation Commission as easement holder was not informed of the septic system.

**Water Resources advisory role**

The ConCom's advisory role was approved, following sunseting of the former advisory committee. Robert Wood suggested the scope be drinking water quality and quantity issues. Francie Von Mertens said getting water information from town had been challenging—extraction by town and a private commercial well. She will try again. General information: the town's three wells are rotated; most recent figures for the Upland Farm Spring commercial operation: 2 million gallons June 2017.

Jo Anne Carr will contact NHDES to update commercial extraction numbers, and determine whether there are low-flow safeguards in the event of a drought and town water restrictions. We have been told the operation is grandfathered and there are no safeguards. State alone has purview over commercial water extraction. Rodney did say that when Old Sharon Road was torn up by flooding (ice jams), the truck route was shifted from that state road to a town road, and truck size was reduced to reduce road impact.

**Zoning overhaul**

Jo Anne Carr spoke to concerns about the zoning changes to be voted on in May relating to allowed impervious lot coverage, among other concerns. She will put her concerns to writing to see if a Conservation Commission statement of concern is needed.

**Plastics**

Francie said she did not have energy to launch the neonicotinoid lawn treatment campaign as previously discussed; but would approach ConVal about a graphic design poster campaign relating to plastic straws. She referenced the creative posters designed each year for Children and the Arts. Straws aren't the highest use compared to plastic bags, but are seen as a good consciousness-raising topic about single-use plastics. Scotland is in the process of banning them, one of many signs of a trend. Francie will contact Dana Wood at ConVal, and ask Susy Mansfield (Recycling Center Advisory Group) to join the effort.

**Other**

**Cheney Avenue Field** A property owner has requested ConCom approval to cut a tree blocking their view of Mt. Monadnock. There was general consensus that setting a precedent was the proverbial "slippery slope." A site visit will be scheduled.

**The annual Monahan Day of Service** coinciding with Martin Luther King Jr. weekend was cancelled (zero degrees + snow cover). Von Mertens will schedule one at another time.