

# Conservation Commission

## Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2024

Erving Public Library, 2 Care Drive

Members in attendance: Chairperson Mark Blatchley, Rinky Black, David Brule, Michele Turner

Members Absent: Carie Berg

Others in attendance: Mark Stinson, DEP; Abby Baines, Library Director

**Call to Order:** The meeting was opened at 6:00pm by Chairperson Mark Blatchley.

**Minutes February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024:** On a motion by David, seconded by Rinky **the Commission VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of February 6<sup>th</sup> as presented.**

**Library Programs:** Abby Baines director of the Erving Library discussed the upcoming Summer Reading Program's READ, RENEW, REPEAT with a Conservation theme. She inquired would the Conservation Commission be willing to co-sponsor some events. Potential programming includes Birds of Prey or Wing Masters, there will be a Reptile Nook, and T Shirts will be made with any leftover available funds. She suggested an amount of \$1000. On a motion by David, seconded by Rinky, **the Commission VOTED unanimously to approve \$1000 to co-sponsor the 2024 Summer Reading Program.**

**Enforcement North Street Violation:** No action taken. Mark Stinson from the Department of Environmental Protection was present to discuss process and procedures and necessary documentation with the Commission. He will send the Enforcement Manual an editable Trifold handout.

**Certificates of Completion:** Certificates of Compliance are only required for Orders of Conditions. A Request for a Certificate of Compliance will come from the Project Applicant. Requests for Determination of Applicability (RDAs) do not require a certificate of compliance or completion.

**Report on Poplar Mtn Activities:** Mark briefed the Commission that the Trail has been blazed on the top, stumps were moved and a second attempt to remove stumps will be made when ground firms up and dries out.

**Future Programs:**

- a. April/May David Brown Warbler Program – cost \$300 Tentatively scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in May. On a motion by Michele, seconded by David, **the Commission unanimously VOTED to expend \$300 for David Brown's warbler program.**
- b. April Trail Work/Road Cleanup Day – tentative date of April 21<sup>st</sup> will coincide with Earth Day events.
- c. Trail Building Training – potential trails sites at library and riverfront park on old sewer line. Neither is our jurisdiction.
- d. Town-wide Gardening Projects – Mark explained a need has been identified. The commission does not have availability or resources to help.
- e. Additions - none

**March Around Town:** Mark will draft and submit to Michele for editing to be submitted by 3/11.

**Member Trainings:** Rinky and Mark are continuing to pursue educational opportunities through MACC the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

**Additional Items Unanticipated:** Open Space Committee reorganization memo from Town Administrator – members will attend as they can and consider Goals.

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Rinky, seconded by David, **the Commission VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Turner

