

NCC Minutes 4/17/23

Open meeting 7:01 p.m.

Present: J. Couture, D. Mason, F. Hayden, J. Lent, A. Watts, L. Hill, Selectman M. Kessler

1) Administrative Business:

- a) Minutes 3/20/23- J. Couture motions to accept, J. Lent seconds, all in favor YES.
- b) Treasurer's report- J. Couture motions to accept, F. Hayden seconds, all in favor YES.

2) New Business:

- a) Review of standard practice- A. Watts and J. Lent met with the town counsel
 - Recusals- If someone feels they need to recuse themselves, they just need to inform everyone as to the reason. They may contribute to the discussion but they cannot vote.
 - A. Watts asked whether J. Couture could be our rep to the planning board. He replied that normally yes, but he is now the chair.
 - J. Lent sells candy at the VFF but the town counsel said this would not be a conflict.
 - Closed sessions- Minutes are not available to the public but not sure for how long.
- b) ESRLAC Plan- F. Hayden read the executive summary and said it was mostly informational.
- c) Eelgrass- F. Hayden attended the conference and volunteered to represent Newfields in helping to monitor the eelgrass. Funding is provided through grants and UNH. The EPA is most interested in nitrogen loading in the bay. Newfields has a small impact. Research may help more impactful towns plan on how to proceed. It will take 3 years before any conclusions can be made.

3) Old Business:

- a) Silverstein- Christine has stated that we may move forward. J. Couture will contact S. Callaghan as to who to hire, etc..
- b) Rugg- L. Batt from TPL will meet with the selectmen 4/25/23.
M. Kessler asked whether we could conserve just part of the land. J. Couture and F. Hayden replied that has not yet been discussed.
- c) Con. Comm. email- Has been created. J. Couture will forward us the info.
- d) Vernon- A. Watts and J. Lent met with the town counsel, Derek Durbin
 - D. Durbin feels that what they are doing does meet the definition of agritourism. He also asked whether the memo from S. Callaghan re:parking was forwarded to the Vernons. J. Couture stated that it should have been included in the report sent to them.
 - A. Watts stated that the planning board should request they make the tie to food stronger. We should meet with the Vernons, D. Durbin, S. Callaghan to discuss this. There is a requirement on the Planning Board's list that they ask for our input and we have an obligation to follow through.
 - She also stated that the driveway permit has not yet been approved by D.E.S.. We may have an issue with moving the stonewalls. We need access to the plans. L. Hill stated that J. Vernon presented a plan to us in Sept., 2020 but this may be outdated.
 - M. Kessler suggested referencing the state Agritourism Board. A. Watts replied that D. Durbin felt that it was not very useful at this point.

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- A. Watts reiterated that the easement prohibits moving the stone walls. NRCS has stated that they are not in the easement. F. Hayden pointed out that NRCS is not a surveying body and that the NCC should probably have a survey done.
- A. Watts asked who's roll it is to enforce the easement. It should be the NCC. J. Couture stated that we usually go through the selectmen.
- A. Watts made a motion that we draft a letter to the Vernons, S. Callaghan and D. Durbin requesting that we meet to discuss emphasizing food, potential impacts to soils and the issue of the stonewalls. L. Hill motioned to accept, J. Lent seconded, all in favor YES. A. Watts will draft a letter.

4) Mail-

- a) NHACC- discussed possible benefits of joining
- b) Newsletter from Lakes Conference

5) Next meeting: 5/15/23

Adjourn 8:25 p.m.

NCC member L. Hill, 4/17/23