

**PEMBROKE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**APRIL 10, 2023**

**In attendance:** Ammy Heiser (Chair), Carol Bertsimas (Vice), Brian Mrazik (Secretary), Ayn Whytemare, Tom Gallo, Karen Yeaton (BOS Rep), Kevin Foss (PB Rep)

**Absent:** Wendy Weisiger

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

**Planning Board Applications:** None

**Zoning Board Applications:** None.

**DES Letters and Applications:** None.

**Possible Acquisitions:** Ammy reported that she has received no new information on the status of the proposed conservation easement on the former Gelinas property on Fourth Range Road. Jeff Evans from the Five Rivers Conservation Trust (FRCT) met with Lee Grimes to discuss a possible conservation easement on Grimes property along Buck St. Jeff said that the Trust would be interested in holding such an easement and requested a meeting with Ammy to discuss it. Ayn reported that she has purchased the 30-acre parcel, with the 12-acre field, along Pembroke St. (Lot 561-101-1). The property abuts the Center Hill Conservation Area. Ayn expressed an interest in donating a conservation easement on the property, as part of her estate plan, and is willing to document the process as an example for other potential donors.

**Review and Approve Minutes of March 20, 2023 Meeting:**

Carol moved to accept the minutes of the March 20 meeting, as drafted. Tom seconded. All voted in favor except Kevin, who abstained.

**Conservation Lands:**

**1. Deed Reviews:** No new activity.

**2. Monitoring Update:** The annual monitoring day set for April 1 was cancelled due to weather. Monitoring assignments planned for this spring were made as follows: Beacon Hill, Ayn and Tom; Brittany and Gamlin, Kevin; AGNE, Ammy and Brian; Ames Brook, Brian.

**3. Robert Frost Memorial Park (Girard):** Ammy discussed the status of this property with David Jodoin. She related the CC's concern that, although we have historically stewarded this property as a conservation area, a review of the deed indicates that the parcel was donated to the Town without any designation as to its intended use. The property is small (0.34 acres), has essentially been converted to a park, and has minimal benefit as a conservation area. Expenses associated with continuing maintenance of the property, including management of the invasive vegetation, should not fall under the purview of the CC. David agreed and will bring the issue up with the BOS. Ammy also contacted Jocelyn Carlucci of the Meet Me In Suncook Committee to express these concerns.

**4. Conservation Land Use Policies:** In response to discussions at the March 20 meeting regarding the process for establishing allowed and prohibited uses on conservation properties, Ammy circulated copies of the CC's Public Use Policy adopted on June 11, 2007. Any changes to this policy will require a public hearing. Ayn raised the issue of how the CC should handle the continued placement of rope swings by the public on conservation properties along the Merrimack River. Such use generates litter problems and raises issues of Town liability for injuries. Ammy will contact the Town's legal counsel regarding the liability issue. The CC will evaluate the situation on the next monitoring visits to these sites.

**Other Business:**

**1. FRCT Workshop:** The FRCT issued an email to area conservation commissions expressing an interest in expanding work with them. They are planning a Conservation Workshop on June 5 between 6 and 9 PM at the Citywide Community Center in Concord. Ayn volunteered to attend and will fill out the conservation activities survey that FRCT provided with the invitation.

**2. Class VI Roads Building Policy:** The BOS will be holding another closed meeting with Town counsel and department, board, and commission leaders to further review this policy on April 26 at 6:30 PM. Karen agreed to send copies of the policy to CC members.

**Mail and Correspondence:** FRCT Workshop announcement (discussed above).

**Adjournment:** By consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

**NEXT MEETING:** May 8, 2023