

**New Hampshire Council on Resources and Development****APPROVED MINUTES – November 10, 2022**

Approved as presented on January 12, 2023.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Gilbert, Designee, NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Shawn Jasper, Designee, Department of Agriculture
John Martin, Designee, NH Department of Health and Human Services
Jack Ruderman, Designee, NH Housing Finance Authority
Mark Doyle, Designee, Department of Safety
Stephen Labonte, Designee, NH Department of Transportation
Jared Nylund, Designee, NH Department of Administrative Services
Tracey Boisvert, Designee, NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Mark Sanborn, Designee, NH Department of Environmental Services

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Stephanie Verdile, NH Office of Planning and Development (CORD Staff)
Alvina Snegach, NH Office of Planning and Development (CORD Recording Secretary)
Steven Walker, NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program
Charlotte Harding, NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened at 3:00 P.M. by Acting Chairman Gilbert. Council members and guests then introduced themselves.

MINUTES**A. Approval of September 29, 2022, draft minutes**

MOTION: *On a motion by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Ruderman, the September 29, 2022, minutes were approved by the majority vote in favor with Mr. Jasper abstaining due to not being present at that meeting.*

LAND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM (LCIP)**A. Annual Report- Steve Walker, Director of the Conservation Land Stewardship Program.**

Ms. Gilbert said that per RSA 162-C:8 CORD must prepare an annual report to be presented no later than December 1 of year, therefore Steve Walker, who is the Director of the Conservation and Land Stewardship, is here to present that report.

Steve Walker, Director of the Conservation Land Stewardship Program introduced himself and Charlotte Harding, Stewardship Specialist with the Program. Mr. Walker began with a brief historical background of both LCIP and LCHIP Programs and explained how the Conservation Land Stewardship Program came to be. He then showed the CORD members a book listing all the properties under monitoring.

Next Mr. Walker talked about the Annual Report and explained where the bulk of changes usually takes place, which is the monitoring status spreadsheet. Mr. Walker added that the report was pretty self-explanatory and that the chart on the very last page provides the best year end summary. He then offered to answer questions from the members. He also invited them on site walks on various properties under his purview to get more familiar with the program.

Mr. Ruderman asked where the office was located and Mr. Walker explained that they were located in the Johnson Hall on Pleasant Street.

Ms. Boisvert asked whether there were any notable issues this past year, aside from the Tamworth/Perkins easement. Mr. Walker said that there was one potential issue that he has been contemplating on how to approach it. It was discovered in 2006 in Newport and involves the municipal fee-owned LCIP property. Mr. Walker added that he was still not very clear on what CORD's authority is in cases like this and that the program will greatly benefit from having such clarity.

Mr. Ruderman asked if Mr. Walker was able to confer with the Attorney General's Office and Mr. Walker responded in the affirmative, saying that Chris Bond is the person he would go to. He added that he just wants to stay within the program bounds when dealing with issues like that.

Mr. Doyle asked if Mr. Walker thought that they were acting as "canaries in the coal mines" when such issues arise.

Mr. Walker responded that "canaries sometimes die in those coal mines" and continued to say that their charge is to protect the resources that the State had invested in. He added that they try to keep the finger on the pulse and have good relationships with the property owners. If there is an issue beyond the program's jurisdiction, they would go to the relevant agency for further action.

Ms. Walker added that it is different when municipality owns the property, as there are mostly volunteers who are involved in the process and the program tries to provide with the technical support but not do their job for them.

Mr. Gilbert asked Mr. Walker if he would be open to doing another Conservation Land Stewardship Program presentation for CORD sometime next year and he agreed. He briefly provided some numbers associated with the program and reiterated that most of their effort goes into keeping the good relationship with the land owners. He then spoke about the latest changes where the program became its own agency under Department of Administrative Services last year and introduced Charlotte Harding, who is the newest addition to the agency. Mr. Walker spoke very highly about Ms. Harding's work and commended her for her effort.

Ms. Gilbert also noted that Ms. Harding has worked very hard on the creation of the new website for the Program.

Mr. Jasper made a motion to accept the Annual Conservation Land Stewardship Program Report for 2022. Mr. Sanborn duly seconded and motion carried with a unanimous vote in favor.

LAND & COMMUNITY HERITAGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (LCHIP)

A. Nothing at this time.

V. SURPLUS LAND REVIEW

A. Nothing at this time

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Next Meeting: January 12, 2023, from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Ms. Verdile noted that the deadline for submitting Surplus Land Review applications for the January 2023 meeting is December 8, 2022.

Ms. Gilbert provided a brief update on the status of the new NH Office of Planning and Development website, which she said hopefully should go live by the end of 2022.

MOTION: After a motion by Mr. Jasper and a second by Mr. Labonte, followed by a unanimous vote, meeting was adjourned at 3:31 PM.