



**PAXTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
*January 11, 2024*

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**Location and Time:** Location and time: meeting was opened at 7:00 PM at the White Building (John Bauer Senior Center 17 West St.)

**Attendance:**

Commissioners: Mike Voorhis, MV, Chair; Bob Ferguson, BF, Commissioner; Jim Robert, JR, Commissioner; Donmarie Sespaniak, DS, Commissioner; Jason Lambert, JL, Commissioner; Commissioner; Holly Robert, HR, Associate Commissioner; Douglas Dillon, DD, Conservation Agent

**Others present:** Marisa Browning-Kamins, Nashua River Watershed Association

**Minutes:**

DS moved to accept the minutes as amended. JL seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

**Bills:** none

**Correspondence received:**

DD received notice that the Moore State Park dam was damaged by the recent storm. DCR requested emergency work approval which was given.

**Sites Visited:**

Moore state park: the dam has already been repaired at the time of the meeting. The damage was minimal with some surface erosion near the dam. DD also met with MSP staff, Karen, who reported that there are plans to trim the rhododendrons near the artist overlook.

**Updates on previous issues:**

Open Space and Recreation Plan:

MV reported that the last update was done by a separate committee appointed by the Select Board, (Robert Bertin and Richard Fenton). The town survey needs to be redone. We will need to obtain town funding for postage and the other expenses.

Change of fees:

MV noted that we periodically will need to increase fees because of increasing advertising costs. DD suggested determining if any other regulations need to be changed prior to discussing fees in an open hearing. MV suggested increasing the site visit fee. A plan was suggested for commission members to all reread our own regulations. Further discussion is planned for the March meeting.

**Other business:**

Marisa Browning-Kamins presented information about a grant that the Nashua River Watershed Association has received for removal of invasive plants and replanting with native plants. The grant funding ends May 1, 2024. They are looking for vegetated banks and other areas that

would benefit from this funding. MV requested more documentation. HR asked if the plants are trees or shrubs. Several species of plants including silky dogwood, maple and oak are available. This assistance can be provided on private or public property. Invasive plants can include Barberry, Buckthorn, and Multi-Flora Rose but not Japanese Knotweed. The work must be within the Nashua River watershed. This watershed extends to the northeast corner of the town of Paxton. We can send suggestions.

Next meeting, February 8, 2024; March 14, 2024.

JR moved to close the meeting, DS seconded, all present were in favor, none opposed. The meeting was closed at 7:59 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Robert Ferguson, Conservation Commissioner