



Georgia Conservation Commission Minutes
February 17, 2025 - DRAFT

Call to Order: 6:36 pm

Attendance:

Present: Alysia Catalfamo, Jen Kale, Suz Brown (arrived at 6:46), Ken Minck, Fred Grimm, Guest Connor O'Driscoll

Absent: Annette Vallani, Peter Mazurak

Minutes:

January – Jen moved to approve January minutes, Suz seconded. Motion carried.

Financial as of 2/5/25 (line item balance unofficial, waiting for budget approval):

CRF (account 9-1-00-00-01.08): \$159,930

General (account A-1-00-00-01.05): \$50,375

Line items (account 1-7-05-80-52.00): \$4,900

Correspondence: None

Select Board minutes: None

On-going business:

1. VELCO work on power lines at SLW: Will install new grounding wires and replace wooden poles with metal – work is happening now, should be mostly done in the month of February. Mulching/seeding will take place in Spring 2025. All SLW trails will be closed during pole replacement.
2. Bidwell property purchase: Title search currently on hold as one beneficiary may be interested in purchasing the land. Appeals deadline is 2/24/25.
3. Trail through wetland mitigation project at town garage: DRB voted not to rebuild wetland. Trying to get info re: state wetlands permit for original construction of the garage – our understanding was that a mitigation project was required.
4. JoAnn Harvey's after school program: Hold new vote for funding project with 2025 funds, will postpone until after Town Meeting Day.
5. Search for a new member: Tom moved to accept Connor O'Driscoll as a new member, Jen seconded. Motion carried.
6. GMCC Scholarships: Advertising on FPF and FB, one applicant so far.
7. Stream restoration work at SLW: Had meeting onsite with VLT to discuss and review options for stream stability. They are working on what permits will be required and we will hear from them once that is figured out.

8. SLW Forest Management: Tom & Alysia provided feedback to Charlie Hancock on the new forest management plan. Met with Charlie and VLT on Jan 2 to go over the changes. Charlie has provided new draft and draft story map based on plan that we need to review.

9. Falls Road Signs: Select Board approved new messaging, signs will be ordered pending SB approval of the proof.

10. Horseshoe Barn Road: Possibly improve as a walking path for hiking. Need to look into property transfers of abutting properties for descriptions of the road. Will ask SB about honoring the 1970 SB decision designating this road as a trail.

11. Mass failures for Rugg Brook and Mill River: State directed Ken to coordinate with the town. Will re-evaluate in Summer 2025 to see if there has been any progression of the failures.

New Business:

1. Possible Ethan Tapper speaking event – discussion around a potential guided forest walk, discussed co-hosting with Milton or St Albans CC.
2. Tree pruning event this spring – A citizen has offered to host a tree pruning workshop for rejuvenating overgrown fruit trees. Alysia reached out to Coyote, waiting to hear back. Ken will reach out as well.

Items not on Agenda:

1. Painting Boundaries at SLW: Plan for this when weather is warmer.

2. Mass failures for Rugg Brook and Mill River: Mass failures identified during 2008 study. Ken contacted the flood hazard program with the state and is waiting to hear back re: funding.

Adjournment: 7:39 pm



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5. Search for a new member: Tom moved to accept Connor O'Driscoll as a new alternate member for the balance of Noah's appointed term, Jen seconded. Motion carried.
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