

**Rochester Conservation Commission
Minutes of June 7, 2022**

Present: Christopher Gerrior, Chairman
Bendrix Bailey, Vice Chairman
Kevin Thompson
William Milka
Michael Gifford
Matthew Bache

Absent: Maggie Payne

Conservation Agent, Merilee Kelly
Dawn DeMaggio, Board Administrator
Lori Walsh, Recording Secretary

The meeting convened via Zoom video conference ID # 881 3946 5009. Chairman Gerrior called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and took attendance of Members, staff, applicants, and representatives. Chairman Gerrior read a message about remote participation and ground rules for the meeting. He stated the meeting was being recorded. Each presentation was limited to 10 minutes and 3 minutes were allowed for public comment. Chairman Gerrior stated that votes would be taken by roll call.

Public Hearings

DEP SE 272-0609 A request for a Certificate of Compliance was filed by Angela DeMelo for property located at 179 Burgess Ave., Map 27, Lot 16. The final Order of Conditions was recorded at the Registry of Deeds on 03/18/2022, Book 56578, Page 202.

Angela deMelo was present for 179 Burgess Ave. Conservation Agent Kelly said she went out there and it is completely finished.

Member Bailey made a motion to approve the Certificate of Compliance.

Member Bache seconded the motion.

Motion passes with a roll call vote of 6.

DEP SE272-0586 A Request for a Certificate of Compliance was filed by John and Michelle Vinagre for a Garage completed at 7 Ginny's Ave., Map 26, Lot 26D.

John Vinagre was present and told the Board that the Garage is finished.

Member Bailey made a motion to approve the Certificate of Compliance for 7 Ginny's Ave.

Member Bache seconded the motion.

Motion passes with a roll call vote of 6.

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Commission Business

Minutes –

May 17, 2022

Member Bailey made a motion to approve the minutes for May 17, 2022.

Member Bache seconded the motion.

Motion passes with a roll call vote of 6

Old Business

89 Box Turtle Drive – Enforcement Order

Member Bailey said that he would like to impose a daily fine until they have complied with the enforcement order.

Member Bailey made a motion to issue a modified Enforcement Order stating that they need to have a restoration plan, file a NOI, and that the Board will impose a daily fine until they comply with the enforcement order.

Member Bache seconded the motion.

Motion passes with a roll call vote of 6.

Member Bache made a motion to issue a fine of \$100.00 per day until each item requested on the enforcement order is complied with.

Member Bailey seconded the motion.

Motion passes with a roll call vote of 6.

New Business

Snows Pond Association (SPA) Michelle Kirby President

Discussion on progress as well as concern regarding Pond Health in Rochester

Snows Pond Association - Michelle Kirby

Concern of weeds growing in the pond are a great concern. She spoke to Laurel Farinon in Conservation in 2018 in regards to the ponds filling with sediment to the point they are not a pond anymore. Snows Pond and Mary's Pond Road are 20,000 years old and they need to be protected. They have been monitoring Snows Pond for 2 years now and it cost them \$10,000. Since the 2019 Survey she has been trying to do what she can. Michelle has gone to DEP workshops and other trainings. She has joined the University of RI water program that is \$700 dollars a year to save money with the URI certification. She personally delivers samples once a month. Phosphorus Nitrogen are tested. 2-2 1/2 years of testing and monitoring. Urinating in the pond increases the phosphorus rate. Nutrient pollution is the problem in the pond right now. Member Bailey has concerns that what they are doing is not a solution to the problem. Nick Kirby spoke to Member

Bailey about this. They would like to come together and make people aware. They are using herbicides. Member Bailey has concerns about the herbicides also. Upkeep is terrible but the alternative is worse. Member Bailey agrees with them about cleaning out the Pond but it will be quite the battle. Member Bache said he is with them 100% and they need some signs out there.


Leaching field is 100 feet from the pond. Chairman Gerrior asked if they know how many legacies there are. Nick Kirby spoke and said that some of the septic systems are bee-hives in the area of Snows Pond. Gerrior asked are there any authority that would tell them anything. Michelle said no. Chairman Gerrior said there are multiple agencies that do look at these things. Anti Barnacle campaigns and there are agencies that know about that. How does it compare, are some of them (ponds) going to dissolve tomorrow, Chairman asked. Which direction do we take, let nature take its course or do we have man made control over them. Snows Pond has good water quality right now. Chairman Gerrior said to go with better practice and look at other advocacies. Once we've done that then we can go to the other departments to see if they can help and revisit this in maybe another year. Do a reasonable study Mr. Kirby said. Chairman Gerrior said that all of these questions and approvals seem to need to come from somewhere else. They have the Boards support. Find out who else can come in and help. Clerk Bailey said the time to start would be now. Michelle has the contacts but has not written a letter as of yet and was encouraged to contact other residents to create advocacies. Chairman Gerrior said that if they ever have anything they would like to present or share, they are welcome to come back to a Conservation Commission meeting.

Adjournment

Member Thompson made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

Member Bache seconded the motion.

Date: 7-14-22


Chairman, Christopher Gerrior
Ben Bailey


Lori Walsh, Recording Secretary