

Meeting: Antrim Conservation Commission, March 31, 2022 at 6 pm meeting at Town Hall.

Attendees: Peter Beblowski '25' pending, Linda Bryer '24', Keith Wolsiefer '25' pending, Rod Zwirner-Member-at-Large and Public: none

Absent: Frank Gorga '24' Jeremy DeLisle '23' and Ron Cheetham '23'

1. Draft January 2022 meeting notes were reviewed, amended and accepted.
2. No meeting was held in February 2022.
3. Peter met with the Selectmen on March 28, 2022. A number of issues were discussed:
 - a. Invasive Species and what and where the Con Com is actively working throughout town to the remove various problem plants.
 - b. Member renewals- they ok'd Peter B and Keith W for renewal.
 - c. Briefly discussed Soak Up the Rain pending interaction with members of Gregg Lake & White Birch Point Associations.
 - d. Buttercup Lane ROW to Town land on back side of Fire Station (Map 242, Lot 57). Selectmen Tom Davis said he would look into it further.
 - e. Campbell Pond discussed below.
 - f. Loons & beavers at Gregg Lake- The selectmen were thanked for coordinating with Jim Plourde (Town Highway Dept) regarding the need for a stabilized lake level and an unfettered access to the main lake under the Gregg Lake Road bridge. The requirements of the loons was explained and received well by the select board.

4. Trails:

- a. **Campbell Pond-** Peter started inventorying the biodiversity with iNaturalist up there. Also, The Student Conservation Association (SCA) got back to us and we are not on their 2022 schedule, regarding potential trail building around pond & possible loop trail up Reily Mtn. However we are on the preliminary schedule for 2023. This was discussed with the selectmen. We also need to take a look at the NH Fish & Game website and guidance regarding "Trails for People & Wildlife." <https://wildlife.state.nh.us/trails/> and contact Monadnock Conservancy's **Alex Metzger** Alex@MonadnockConservancy.org regarding the trail under the town's conservation easement. Also the need for additional Japanese Barberry removal was discussed. Peter also submitted annual questionnaire to Monadnock Conservancy.
- b. **Meadow Marsh Trail** – Peter started inventorying the biodiversity with iNaturalist this past winter. Roughcut lumber to be delivered for repair of bog bridges. Once delivered repairs will be made.
- c. **Lily Pond Trail** - Peter also started inventorying the biodiversity at the pond and along the trail with iNaturalist. Large pine tree blew down in wind storm (on Map 227, Lot 7.1). It will be cut up at future work day.
- d. **Hurlin Property-** Linda contacted Caleb Platt about brush hogging and he said he would be glad to do it. We need to come up with a plan to rehab the fields hopefully with Jeremy taking the lead.
- e. **Meetinghouse Hill Trail** to the Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery needs to be re-established. Peter contacted Andrew Robblee before the pandemic re: new trail easement agreement. Peter will revisit after pandemic is resolved.
- f. Also, need to develop an integrated trail management plan for town and Master Plan. This is to be re-visited after the pandemic is resolved.
- g. Several post tops have been made for installation this year.
<https://naturegroupie.org/citizen-science/picture-post> and
<https://picturepost.ou.edu/index.jsp> We need to commit to the project....

5. **Invasive Plants** – Back in November several days were spent removing autumn olive bushes from several town properties (along Rte 202, the library, police station, post office and the Grapevine properties). Thank you all who helped.
Next up the Burning Bush at Town Hall this was discussed and blueberry bushes need to be obtained and selectmen notified when done. We will hold off until the daffodils are though blooming. Linda will direct.
6. **Contookook & North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee (CNBRLAC):** Rod says check out the new website <https://www.cnbrlac.org/> . Rod announced that Jim Creighton is the new Antrim member on the committee.
7. **Election of chairman was conducted:** Linda made motion to re-elect Peter as chair. Seconded by Keith. Discussion ensued. Peter said he would gladly serve again but someone else should be chair soon. Following discussion vote taken. 3 yes 0 no. Chair does not vote on the commission unless needed to break tie.
8. **Hikes:** Hikes to be coordinated with trail work above....
 - a. **Campbell Pond-** April 23 or 24 tbd for barberry removals
 - b. **Meadow Marsh** – bog bridge needs repair. April 10 @2pm
 - c. **Lily Pond** - I have started iNaturalist there. There is a large tree that came down and needs to be cut up. April tbd.
9. Back in July 2021, we received an inquiry from the Harris Center asking if the Antrim Conservation Commission could help with their land acquisition of some conservation land that abuts the town line with Hancock and Audubon owned properties south of Willard Pond. After some discussion, we determined that we could move forward and tell the Harris Center of our willingness to help [Linda made a motion and Rod seconded it] to get the Harris Center to provide documentation and additional information about the property and once received then move forward with the proper public information meeting in response to the respective RSA. This motion was passed 3 yes- 0 no. Peter to contact the Harris Center.

10. Planning Board/ ZBA:

11. Intents to Cut- active

21-017-18T- Greatwood, LLC, Map 235 Lot 014, Craig Rd., (72 of 663.6+/- acres cut)

12. Workshops & meetings

Harris Center <https://harriscenter.org/events>

Monadnock Conservancy: <http://www.monadnockconservancy.org>

Society for the Protection of NH Forests: <https://forestsociety.org/>

Nature Conservancy: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/new-hampshire/contact-us/>

Think about: **NO MOW MAY** [HTTPS://BEECITYUSA.ORG/NO-MOW-MAY/](https://BEECITYUSA.ORG/NO-MOW-MAY/)

A lush, green, weed-free lawn has historically been center stage in American landscaping. It tells the whole neighborhood that you are a competent, hard-working, contributing member of society. Dandelions and an overgrown lawn are a sign of neglect, incompetence, and laziness* —or so our culture would have you believe. Americans have a love affair with lawns* —maintaining roughly 40 million acres, or 2% of land in the US, making them the [single largest irrigated crop we grow](#). Lawns require frequent mowing, raking, fertilizing, weeding, chemical treatment, and watering* —sucking up time, money, and other resources. Not only are lawns burdensome for the people maintaining them, but they also provide little positive benefit to wildlife, and in fact are often harmful. The traditional monoculture lawn lacks floral resources or nesting sites for bees and is often treated with large amounts of pesticides that harm bees and other invertebrates. When we think of habitat loss, we tend to

imagine bulldozers and rutted dirt, but acres of manicured lawn are as much a loss of habitat as any development site.

Re-thinking the American lawn can take a variety of forms from reducing mowing frequency or area mown to permanently converting lawn to a more diverse and natural landscape.

DO MORE BY DOING LESS

Mowing your lawn less creates habitat and can increase the abundance and diversity of wildlife including bees and other pollinators. One way to reduce mowing is by participating in Now Mow May. No Mow May is a conservation initiative first popularized by [Plantlife](#), an organization based in the United Kingdom, but which is gaining traction across North America. The goal of No Mow May is to allow grass to grow unmown for the month of May, creating habitat and forage for early season pollinators. This is particularly important in urban areas where floral resources are often limited.

GO LAWNLESS

Lawn certainly has its place. It provides a perfect platform for kicking a ball around, provides “accommodation” for the needs of pets, and can be used to define space in landscape design. But how much lawn do you really need, and to what standard must it be maintained? Do your kids need a perfect, weed-free lawn to play on? Do you really need to measure your lawn in acres rather than feet? In addition to reducing the amount you mow—think about reducing the amount of lawn that needs mowing. In place of that lawn, consider [planting a rain garden](#), [pollinator garden](#), or [wildflower meadow](#)—or replacing your turf grass lawn with native lawn alternatives.

Next Meeting: tentatively April 28, 2022 at 6pm AT Town Hall