

Franklin Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda
March 12, 2019
City Hall Basement – 7:30 pm

Call to Order

- Approval of the January 15, 2019 meeting minutes.

Old Business

- New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission Dues – invoice sent to city November 20, 2018

New Business

- Funding Request for FY 2020
- BiloBlitz Assistance for NH Towns
- House committee proposal on regulating plastic products
- Bills to Watch in NH 2019 Legislative Session
- NH Stone Wall Mapper

Adjournment

FRANKLIN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2019

Present: Nita Tomaszewski, Bob Morin, Roy Gilbreth (by telephone), Glenn Morrill

Next meeting: February 12, 2019, 2018 - 7:30 pm, City Hall Basement

Meeting called to order by Nita at 7:30 PM

Minutes of the November 12, 2018 meeting were distributed for review. Glenn moved and Nita seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed.

I Old Business

Trail Use by Snowmobile Club - Bob spoke about the process the Lake Region Snowmobile Club undertook to request approval from the city for the use of trails on city property. He explained that the club submitted its request to the City Manager who in turn submitted the request to the City Council.

II New Business

Selection of 2019 Conservation Commission Officers - Glenn moved and Roy seconded the motion that the current slate of officers be maintained for 2019. Nita will serve as Chair and Bob will serve as Secretary.

Reporting Requirements - Nita informed the commission the local conservation commissions are not required to file the NH Statement of Financial Interests form to the Office of Secretary of State.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.



**CITY OF FRANKLIN
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Memorandum

TO: Ms. Judie Milner, Acting City Manager
CC: Conservation Commission Files

FROM: Nita Tomaszewski, Chairperson
Conservation Commission

RE: FY 2018 Budget Request

DATE: March 01, 2018

In response to your memo the Conservation Commission is submitting a funding request of \$463.00 for FY 2018. For your review, the Commission is pleased to provide you the following information:

Organization	<p>The Conservation Commission, established by the City Council in 1986, is tasked with studying, promoting and developing for better use the natural resources of the City of Franklin. In fulfilling its mandate, the Commission acts as steward of the natural resources of four properties on behalf of the City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great Gains Forest (±615 acres)• Montgomery Forest (±503 acres)• Griffin Road (±33 acres)• Billie Mo Brook Forest (±87 acres)
Services Provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborating with the Department of Municipal Services on the implementation of a 3-Year Municipal Tree Planting Project instituted in 2015• Coordinates with the Department of Planning & Zoning on matters relating to proposed Commission activities• Coordinates with the City Forester in implementing recommendations put forth in the Forest Management Plans for 3 of the 4 above mentioned properties.• Upon the request of the Department of Municipal Services, the Commission acts in an advisory capacity on natural resources issues pertinent to other City properties.• Follows up with the Lakes Region Snowmobile Club, the Franklin

	<p>Outing Club and other civic organizations on their respective plans for improvements to and maintenance of trails within the above mentioned properties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews of permitting applications at the request of NHDES 										
Annual Budget	<p>Revenues resulting from timber harvests within the Great Gains are placed in the Great Gains Expendable Trust. Any request for use of these funds is submitted by the Commission for approval by the City Council. At the present time we rely entirely upon the City for operational funds. For FY 2018 we estimate our expenses to be:</p> <table> <tr> <td>NH Association of Conservation Commission (NHACC)</td><td>363.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Annual dues</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists</td><td>20.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Attendance Fees – Annual NHACC Meeting</td><td><u>80.00</u></td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>\$463.00</td></tr> </table>	NH Association of Conservation Commission (NHACC)	363.00	Annual dues		NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists	20.00	Attendance Fees – Annual NHACC Meeting	<u>80.00</u>		\$463.00
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	\$463.00										
Budget Notes	N/A										
Impact of Non-Funding	<p>The loss of this funding request will result in loss of Commissioners' access to the services of NHACC. These services include technical assistance on regulatory matters affecting conservation planning, implementation and networking with members of other Conservation Commissions in the state and the opportunity to upgrade technical skills at the annual NHACC meeting. Non-access to these services will hinder the Commission's ability to stay current on regulations and best practices in conservation.</p>										

Nita E. Tomaszewski
Chair

Electronic CC to Committee Members
Glen Morrill
Robert J. Morin
Roy Gilbreath

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BioBlitz Assistance for NH Towns

[View this email in your browser](#)

UNH Extension is excited to announce a new program called New Hampshire BioBlitz, open to communities in New Hampshire in 2019.

Building on the work of the Town and Community Forests Survey, this program will provide assistance to towns who want to learn what kinds of plants, animals, fungi, and insects ("biodiversity") can be found on town-owned lands.

Communities who are interested in hosting a volunteer BioBlitz, a species scavenger hunt where volunteers work alongside scientists and field experts to find and record as many different species on a property as possible in a short amount of time, can apply to receive assistance from UNH Extension. Data from these events can help communities with stewardship planning and are a fun and engaging way to connect more people to townlands.

UNH Extension is currently accepting applications from communities in New Hampshire to plan, organize, and implement BioBlitz events for Fall 2019. If your town is interested in being considered to receive assistance, please [review the criteria and benefits](#) and take 5–10 minutes to fill out an application. Applications are due March 15.

Learn More and Apply: <https://extension.unh.edu/programs/nh-bioblitz>

Questions? Contact Haley Andreozzi, UNH Extension, haley.andreozzi@unh.edu

Visit our Website
NHACC.org

House committee takes up proposal on regulating plastic products

By ETHAN DeWITT

Monitor staff

Published: 3/6/2019 6:51:33 PM

Sometime last spring, Hopkinton high schooler Joshua Duval arrived at an idea: The world is choking on nonbiodegradable plastic, and the town of Hopkinton should do something about it.

He wrote a letter to the town select board, calling on the body to ban single use plastics – the straws, spoons and shopping bags quickly thrown away – throughout the town. The water of the Contoocook River, which snakes through the town and deposits into the Merrimack, had been polluted too long, Duval argued.

“Imagine enjoying a good cast and a fight with what you think is a fish and when you pull your lure out of the water you find you have caught a three-pound bag of water with the Colonial Villager on it,” Duval wrote, in a March 2018 letter. “These bags are having a serious negative impact on nature and humans.”

The three-page letter, complete with quotations and a two-page bibliography, was taken up by the select board late that month. But the body quickly realized there was little they could do.

“We are doing further research but we believe that the Town does not have the authority to regulate the use of plastic bags,” town administrator Neal Cass wrote back on April 3. “In New Hampshire, towns only have the authority granted to them by the State, and we have not found where this authority has been given.”

It’s a reality that has aggravated certain towns across the state: Without express consent from the Legislature, attempts to manage, ban or charge for plastic bag use is off limits. On Wednesday, two bills to pass down that authority to towns and cities came before the House Municipal and County Government Committee, energizing local activists and business groups on opposing sides.

House Bill 102 would allow towns to “regulate the distribution” of single-use plastics to consumers, allowing for bans, surcharges or limitations. House Bill 559 would more narrowly allow only bans.

Environmental advocates say it’s precisely the kind of decision that should be made by individuals towns. Representatives of businesses and restaurants counter that it would create a patchwork of regulations that could create automatic disadvantages for establishments within those towns.

To Hopkinton resident Bonnie Christie, the legislation is the obvious answer to the select board’s dilemma. That April, the board passed the proposal onto the town’s Recycling Committee, on which Christie served.

The committee secured a \$5,000 grant and immediately started an education and outreach campaign on plastic bag use. Members worked with the schools and community to design reusable bags to distribute at the polls on Election Day. Separately, students at the Harold Martin school passed around a petition to ban plastic straws across the school district.

Moving forward on initiatives with more teeth, Christie said, would require legislative change.

“The kids are all over this,” Christie said of the anti-plastic activism. “The kids in so many situations are way ahead of the game. We talk about the older generation passing the baton to the young generation, but how many times is the younger generation passing the baton to us? They can only go so far.”

A phalanx of environmental groups and residents filled the hearing room Wednesday, speaking in support of a proposal that’s come before the House unsuccessfully for years.

But business groups have assailed the proposal as well-meaning but economically dangerous.

John Dumais, president and CEO of the New Hampshire Grocers Association, said large grocery stores already had comprehensive recycling services – including on-site barrels to deposit plastic bags – as well as outreach efforts.

Mike Somers, CEO of the New Hampshire Lodging and Restaurant Association, added that many restaurants are making independent decisions to ban straws and provide biodegradable plastic utensils – or are requiring customers to ask for them directly.

Lobbyists said allowing towns to decide would create a haphazard system that would only push consumers away – particularly with the rise of the internet.

Curtis Barry, a lobbyist for the New Hampshire Retail Association said that brick and mortar stores are already grappling with the effects of online sales, which often put them at a natural competitive disadvantage even without local plastic restrictions. “Legislation like this exacerbates that situation,” he said.

Business groups argued that the answer was simply more robust recycling of the plastic products already made.

“We don’t have a plastic bag problem in New Hampshire,” Dumais said. “What we do have is we have a behavioral problem. We have people who are just lax about doing this.”

But advocates said those efforts – at a time when China has severely restricted the amount of recyclable products it chooses to accept – would never be enough on their own.

Nashua alderman Ernest Jette has been pushing for a solution to his city’s growing recycling crisis for years. Locally empowering legislation, he said, would allow Nashua to come up with a solution that meets its needs.

“Why would you say to a city like Nashua: ‘We’re not going to allow you to figure things out, we’re going to figure things out for you?’,” Jette said.

(Ethan DeWitt can be reached at edewitt@cmonitor.com, or on Twitter at [@edewittNH](https://twitter.com/edewittNH).)

Legislative Update

Bills to Watch in NH 2019 Legislative Session

This winter has been a busy legislative session. NHACC has been watching bills proposed to reduce plastic waste, enhance wetland protection, control hunting of coyotes and many other topics of concern. We have testified in support of funding for NH Department of Environmental Services to increase fees for wetland permit applications, in support clarifying the definition of prime wetlands and establishing wetland buffers. We have also testified against SB158 prohibiting recipients of municipal or county funds from using such funds for lobbying.

The links below provide more detailed information on the proposed bills we are tracking that would affect natural resources in NH.

Wildlife

[HB 281](#) This bill permits the installation of "beaver deceiver" water flow control devices for the purpose of discouraging beaver damming and reducing the risk of flooding. This allows a landowner to install a water flow device on their land to protect property. This House passed this bill as amended on Feb. 14. [Ought to pass with Amendment](#)

[HB 442](#) An ACT relative to coyote hunting. This bill would prohibit hunting coyote during certain months to coincide with coyote pup rearing. NHACC signed on to an endorsement letter in support of this bill. The House Fish & Game & Marine Resources Committee voted 14-6 on the bill in February. The Majority Report is Inexpedient to Legislate; the Minority Report is Ought to Pass. The full House will vote on this bill on either March 14 or March 21.

Wetlands

[HB 326](#) AN ACT relative to the definition of prime wetlands. Defines prime wetlands to allow for narrow "wetland fingers" to be eligible for prime wetland designation. [NHACC provided testimony](#) in support of this bill at the public hearing. The House Resources, Recreation & Development Committee will deliberate on this and several other relevant bills in Executive Session on March 13 beginning at 10:00 in Room 305 in the Legislative Office Building.

[HB 542](#) AN ACT establishing a grant program to support municipalities in updating their wetlands

regulations. This bill establishes a grant program to support municipalities in adopting or updating their wetlands regulations. This bill establishes a fund through an appropriation of \$350,000 to the office of strategic planning to be deposited in the wetlands regulations fund. This bill passed the House Committee with an [amendment](#) but was then sent to a work session in the House Finance Committee before it can go to the Senate.

[HB 543](#) AN ACT relating to the **protection of wetlands**. This bill identifies and defines different types of wetlands protected under the Wetlands Protection Act and established a 100 ft buffer for high-value Wetlands. This bill has been moved to a subcommittee and was discussed in a work session this week. NHACC provided [testimony](#) in support of this bill at the public hearing. This bill will be heard in Executive Session on March 13 in the Legislative Office Building.

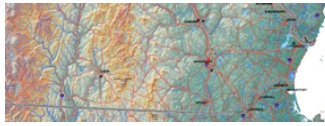
[HB 682-FN](#) an Act **establishing a water resources fund** in the department of environmental services and charging certain application and permit fees. This funding increase will provide the necessary staff and resources to DES so that they may respond efficiently and effectively to the dredge and fill permit review process. Last year the legislature decreased the review period for DES to respond to wetland dredge and fill permits by almost half. In order to continue to protect wetlands and meet the shortened deadlines, DES needs sufficient resources to respond in a timely and thorough manner. NHACC supports this bill and has provided [testimony](#) at the public hearing to make the case for an increase in funding.

[HB 102](#) AN ACT relative to municipal ordinances regarding the use of plastics. This bill permits towns to adopt bylaws to regulate the distribution of single-use plastics.

[HB 558](#) AN ACT restricting the distribution of plastic straws. This bill prohibits food service businesses from providing a single-use plastic straw to a customer unless specifically requested.

[HB 559](#) AN ACT enabling municipalities to ban single-use sources of plastic pollution. This bill allows for a local ordinance or an optional ban on single-use sources of plastic pollution, amending RSA 149-M by inserting a new section.

[HB 560](#) An ACT relative to single-use carryout bags. This bill restricts the distribution of single-use carryout bags by stores and food service businesses. It amends RSA 149-M by inserting after section 60 the following new subdivision: Restriction on Distribution of Single-Use Carryout Bags.



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NH Stone Wall Mapper

You can't help noticing the innumerable stone walls arrayed across the NH landscape, but then again perhaps they seem so commonplace that they just blend into the background of your day-to-day experience. This project is an invitation to take a "fresh" look at these simple relics from New Hampshire's past and see them in a new light, or more literally, Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR). With the availability of LiDAR across NH, we can see imagery of land elevations through the trees, revealing - among other things - stone walls that are deep within forests today. You can explore New Hampshire's LiDAR landscape, and contribute to the mapping of the state's stone walls, with the New Hampshire Stone Wall Mapper, and learn something new about our state's geologic and cultural history as you page through the companion story map "Wall-to-Wall: Connecting Landscape and Culture". Every stone wall that you identify and map using this easy-to-use application will help to build a statewide, "Wall-to-Wall" database to document these amazing testimonials of our ancestors' strength and perseverance, and help to preserve them for future generations.

Please use the first link below to access the NH Stone Wall Mapper, and take advantage of the other resources we have assembled to help acquaint you with the project.

- [Stone Wall Mapper - Public](#)
- ["Getting Started with the NH Stone Wall Mapper"](#) - provides guidance to users mapping stone wall resources in New Hampshire
- ["Looking at LiDAR"](#) - description of how to interpret stone walls based on LiDAR datasets
- ["NH Stone Wall Mapper Help Video"](#) - a 7.5-minute video to introduce users to the NH Stone Wall Mapper
- ["Wall to Wall: Connecting Landscape and Culture"](#) - a storymap providing rich background information on the history and importance of stone walls in NH
- NH Stone Wall Mapping Group - join the [public Facebook group](#) to share your experiences and learn from others interested in this project.

The NH Stone Wall Mapper was developed by the [NH Geological Survey](#) and NH GRANIT, with significant input from a committed group of volunteers. We are grateful to the [NH Charitable Foundation](#) for supporting the development of this resource.