

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Wentworth
June 13, 2023**

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Richard Ducheneau, Brian DuBois, Ron Giroux, Martha Trott, and Erin Ganzel

A. Scheller called the meeting to order at 5pm.

P. Manson reported that he has begun repairing ditches, culverts, and clearing drainage areas. The rainy weather is making it difficult to stay ahead.

P. Manson reports he has a torn rotator cuff. He is hoping to put the appointment off so that he can continue to get construction done.

P. Manson reviewed bids for Beech Hill and Nichols Hill repairs.

A. Scheller makes a motion to hire Jared King for rebuilding of Beech Hill Rd and Nichols Hill Rd, subject to approval of FEMA. Seconded by B. DuBois. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

P. Manson reported there is a lot of ditching that needs to be done but we are lacking the equipment and employees to complete the tasks. He suggests renting equipment from King Forest Rentals.

A. Scheller makes a motion to allow the Highway Department to rent equipment from King Forest Rentals to complete ditching for this season. Seconded by R. Ducheneau. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

M. Trott shared Chief Trott's report, which is attached to these minutes.

R. Giroux thanks the Select Board for the continued support, including the approval of allowing test runs to occur on the rack track during specified hours. More details are attached to these minutes.

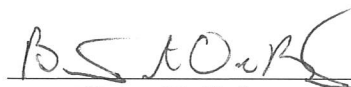
A. Scheller read aloud his statement regarding his discussion with the NH Municipal Association about the Town Forest, which is attached to these minutes.

A. Scheller reported the Select Board has shared responsibility with the Conservation Commission, thus the two operate together rather than as separate entities.

A. Scheller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm. Seconded by B. DuBois. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried

Respectfully submitted by: Erin D. Ganzel, Town Administrator

Arnold Scheller, Chairman


Brian DuBois


Richard Ducheneau

WPD Activity Report
Presented 06/13/2023

Please note that the following is a summary of notable activity conducted by the Wentworth Police Department, (WPD), but does not reflect “all” of WPD’s activity during this time frame.

Chief Trott took part in the last safety meeting at the Wentworth Elementary School for this school year. As always it was productive and we will pick up where we left off next year at the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Chief Trott did a department assist with the Warren Police Department regarding a suspicious vehicle. Chief Trott was able to make contact with the vehicle at the Warren Wentworth town line. After making contact with the vehicles owner it was found that the vehicles owner was homeless and was utilizing the area where they were as a temporary parking area. That area was open to the public so there were no violations. The vehicle information ad owner information was conveyed to Grafton County Dispatch to convey to convey to the Warren Police Department.

Chief Trott assisted New Hampshire State Police Troop-F with a subject who they had arrest warrants for. The subject met with Chief Trott at the Wentworth Police Department and he was subsequently taken into custody and transported to Plymouth for processing and to be taken before the Plymouth Court. Please note that the subject was cooperative and that the arrest was made without incident.

Chief Trott also assisted NHSP Troop-F and seized a firearm per a court order/bail condition. This was connected with above mentioned arrest and was also done without incident.

Chief Trott conducted a civil standby between a landlord and former tenant. Although it was a lengthy process it was completed without incident and should be last civil standby needed at this location between these two parties.



Chief Trott served two (2) Domestic Violence Temporary Orders of Protection from the Haverhill Family Court to a subject in Wentworth. Both orders were served and explained and the served party was given a copy of each order and instructions on how to respond to them.

I would ask the S/B members to meet me in the parking lot after the meeting as I would like to suggest a modification to the parking area on the Police Department side of the building. I have discussed this with Paul and he as well thinks that it is a good idea and will also help with his department being able to plow the parking lot during the winter months. This will also assist us with additional law enforcement parking when needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Wallace Trott
Wentworth Police Department





Dear Wentworth Select Board Members,

I am respectfully requesting permission, in writing, under Section III, subsection a., to be allowed to make my race track available every other Tuesday, between the hours of 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM, for the purpose of allowing a race car owner/driver to test a race car on the race track, if needed.

For the purpose of clarification, this will **NOT** be a race, there will **NOT** be more than (1) one race car on the track at a time, and there will be **NO** spectators as this will **NOT** be open to the public. This will be specifically for when a race car owner/driver needs to test their race car to ensure that it is race ready and more importantly ready to safely race.

I am respectfully asking for only (2) two additional hours every other Tuesday also keeping in mind that I may not need to utilize these additional (2) two hours only if needed. I have and continue to have a great relationship with my property abutters and will ensure that they are aware and supportive of this request.

I have also spoken with Chief Trott regarding this request and he has spoken with Chief Ames. Both have reviewed the Race Track Ordinance and agree that because it is not a race, and not open to the public, there is not a need for a police officer to be there, or, a member from the Wentworth Fire Department or an ambulance. The ordinance states that both the Fire Chief and the Chief of Police have discretion regarding this matter. We will be personally prepared with fire equipment if needed and if an ambulance is needed, we will utilize the 911 system.

In further keeping with the guidelines of the Race Track Ordinance I am making this request in writing. This small request of an additional (2) two hours will also help financially support the race track which in turn will help us when paying out details for the Wentworth Police Department, the Wentworth Fire Department, and an ambulance service.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration regarding this request.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ron Giroux
Legion Speedway
Wentworth N.H. 03282

1-603-764-6060
1-860-235-7107

no police
no fire
A.D. Schaller chair SB

SB

I had the extensive conversation with Mr. Stephen Buckley, a lawyer from New Hampshire municipal Association today regarding the recent conservation committee meeting at with the Wentworth Congregational Church. I explained that the meeting was fairly contentious with the Conservation Committee making proposals on the quality of the water to the town, the town forest, and the use of herbicides.

The points of contention were the town forest and land sales of a disparate part of the town forest part of the forest as a tax lien. We reviewed the town meeting minutes for 2023 in article, 20 discusses the sale of the town forest parcel which states to see if the town will vote to allow the select board and or Conservation Commission to sell property designated as Town Forest located on N. Dorchester Rd. map 12 Lot two sub six, consisting of 1.1+ or minus acres with proceeds and sales deposited to the conservation fund. Please note the Tom previously voted to authorize the selectboard to sell the property designated as the town forest, the planning board recommends this action This article was amended and to read to see if the town will vote to allow the select board and/or the conservation commission to sell the property designated. This town far is located on N. Dorchester Rd. map 12 light to sub six consisting of 1.1+ and minus acres with proceeds of the sale being deposited to the general fund. Mr. Buckley felt that this parcel could be sold by either auction or a sealed bid, and it was up to the selectboard to decide the bid. RSA 80:80

With respect to operational control of the Wentworth Conservation Committee Mr. Buckley felt on the RSA 36 -A.2 that the conservation commission's primary responsibility is management of the town forest. He also felt that this should be a shared responsibility with the towns selectboard.

Many of the town residence present at the Conservation committee meeting felt that a forester was needed and the committee agreed. Over the last year two Forester's have worked in planning the trails and future Logging Operations. Article 16 and article 19 of the town meeting minutes of 2023 were voted down and those articles would've funded a Forester. Without any town funding for a Forester, Mr. Buckley and I recommended the use of the Grafton County Forester, Mr. James Frohn. He would be supported by the Grafton County budget and is an expert in teaching, education, and bio diversity. These are topics that the conservation committee wants to help integrate into the Wentworth town forest. Please refer to Valley News article.

Mr. Jordan King, a Wentworth resident and most recent commercial forester has submitted a plan for walking trails, which is very similar to the Conservation Commission's trails. Mr. Neil Borger at the last conservation committee meeting, felt that the Forester is paid with the commercial cut. Mr. King felt the next commercial cut would be in 15 to 20 years. Mr. King would be responsible for that cut

Utilizing these two Forester's, would meet the needs of all parties.

Arnie Scheller

VALLEY NEWS

(<https://www.vnews.com>)

Jim Frohn article

News (/News/)

Biodiversity walk spotlights managing forest for more than the trees



Grafton County Forester Jim Frohn, left, describes the benefits of soft forest edges with a diversity of plant species and heights that provide cover for deer and songbirds during a workshop on wildlife habitat diversity at Swampy Lane Farm, owned by Russ Keniston, in North Haverhill, N.H., on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022. Frohn was joined on the walk by, from left, Zoe Eisenpress, of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts, Pam Gilbert, of the Grafton County Conservation District, Sean Rabbitt, of the National Wild Turkey Federation and Hugh Mellert, of the Hanover Conservation Commission. (Valley News - James M. Patterson) Copyright Valley News. May not be reprinted or used online without permission. Send requests to permission@vnews.com. Valley News photographs — James M. Patterson [Buy this Image](#)

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By [FRANCES MIZE \(/byline?byline=By FRANCES MIZE\)](#)

Valley News Staff Writer

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HAVERHILL — Jim Frohn, who talks as he walks through forests for a living, wants to ensure that they remain as diverse as possible.

Not unlike communities of people, diversity keeps the woods healthy and interesting.

A field specialist (he identified himself simply as “forester”) for University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, Frohn led a workshop Wednesday to teach landowners and conservation professionals how to manage property to promote habitat for wildlife diversity.

The walking tour, hosted by the Grafton County Conservation District, was held on farmer Russ Keniston’s property, much of which is managed for agriculture.

“You can manage for ag and for wildlife,” Frohn said. “They’re not mutually exclusive, and in fact they can be very compatible.”

The Grafton County Conservation District, a partnership of federal, state and area agencies, assists those interested in land conservation with technical, educational and financial services.

In any ecosystem, all species are interconnected directly or indirectly. In the kinds of healthy ecosystems that the conservation district encourages, maintaining species diversity results in more efficient, productive and sustainable land.

“The more diverse plants are, the more diverse insects are, the more diverse songbirds are,” Frohn said.

Land management practices jump-start diversity.

Zoe Eisenpress, a conservation planner for the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts, moved to New England from Hawaii a few years ago. She joined Frohn on his walking tour to get a better grasp on New England habitats. In her new position, she “has to become a generalist of everything,” Eisenpress said. “I need these kinds of events to catch up.”

New Hampshire is about 85% forested, the second-highest percentage in the country after Maine, and 90% of Grafton County is timberland. Grafton County Conservation District, through its partnerships with the National Resource Conservation Service and Cooperative Extension, hopes to maximize species diversity in and around those woods.

Dense woodlands support a different array of species than open fields.

“A lot of it depends on what we as landowners, birders, hunters, want for wildlife, and like a lot of things, the more diverse the better,” Frohn said.

Frohn led the group from the old log landing on Keniston’s property down the skid road — on which heavy equipment lugs downed timber from the woods — and into denser forest, stopping by a stand of aspens.

“Whenever we see aspen in the overstory, it means at one time there was a major disturbance,” Frohn said, noting the tree’s green, toothy leaves.

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Aspen is a pioneer species and often found in early-successional habitat — land in the first stages of recovering from a disturbance, like a harvest or a big storm.

Frohn discussed how he could read the forest and trace out how species composition reflect changes in land use.

“By looking at all this, we can piece together the history of land management,” Frohn said.

Land management practices result in certain species compositions. The forests on Keniston’s land have been harvested many times, so the property is replete with earlier successional habitat, full of shrubby undergrowth and trees like quaking aspen, sugar maple and white ash.

“Most of the forests we’re dealing with in New England aren’t pristine, old growth, untouched forest. Most were or are agricultural, so we have lots of even-aged forest after they were abandoned,” Frohn said, noting that second- and third-growth forests don’t have so much diversity. “Old growth forests are valuable especially for their structural diversity, and the key is to have a lot of different things going on on your land.”

Pointing to a standing, rotting oak, Frohn emphasized that timber can be harvested thoughtfully, in a way that maintains important features of older forests — the holes in the oak are likely used as animal dens. Big, standing dead trees don't have so much financial value, but they can be ecologically critical, and come harvest time, it's worth marking off a few for preservation, Frohn said.

“Harvesting doesn't have to mean you're totally knocking everything back to square one.”

Moving out of the forest into a hay field, Frohn began talking about enhancing diversity in more open habitat. To keep fields agriculturally productive while also species-rich, Frohn suggests a rotational mowing practice, which would mean keeping some areas un-mowed between mowed patches.

“If you're keeping a field totally mowed all the time, you're basically perpetuating a lawn,” Frohn said. “If this were being managed solely for wildlife, you'd mow it only in the fall, after the songbirds have flown south. But this is a working field.”

Frohn also highlighted the sliver of land that exists at the edge between the field and the forest.

“That's important habitat zone, but some edges are better than others,” Frohn said.

He advocates a “feathered edge,” which is a softer division of field and forest that creates a hybrid area between the two habitats. “Something that likes the field isn't going into a narrow, hard edge, but field- and forest-dwelling species like to use a feathered edge,” Frohn said.

By sending experts like Frohn out into the field for assessment visits, the National Resource Conservation Service and Cooperative Extension provides funding and technical assistance to landowners for practices like rotational mowing and feathered edging that promote species diversity.

Everyone gets a good walk in, too.

Frances Mize is a Report for America corps member. She can be reached at 603-727-3242 or fmize@vnews.com.

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Town Meeting Minutes 2023

In yellow: Conservation Commission Warrants

Article 13 Transfer Station

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$83,730** for the purpose of disposal and hauling of solid waste and cost of maintenance for the Town Transfer Station, said amount to come from general taxation.

Motion to accept: John Vlk
2nd: Marjorie Collicutt
No questions or comments
Re-read Article
PASSED by voice vote.

Article 14 Parks and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$8,100** for the Parks and Recreation for the general maintenance of parks including the Common, Library, Riverside Park, and Hamilton Memorial Field.

Motion to accept: Arnie Scheller
2nd: Lena-Maye Williams
No questions or comments
Re-read Article
PASSED by voice vote

Article 15 Conservation Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Conservation Fund which shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, as authorized by RSA 36-A:5, with the fund to be held by the municipal treasurer (RSA 41:29) and managed by the Conservation Commission. Further, to name the Conservation Commission as agents to expend from said fund. The Select Board recommends this action.

Richard Borger motioned to table

40 = Yes

18 = No

Tabled by hand vote

Article 16 Town Forest Conservation Appropriation

To see if the Town will vote to place a conservation easement on the following town-owned parcels comprising the Wentworth Town Forest, Plummer Town Forest parcel, Map 8, Lot 11, Sub 32, consisting of 130.57± acres; Van Deusen Town Forest parcel, Map 8, Lot 11, Sub 33, consisting of 35.5± acres; and Turner Road parcel, Map 11, Lot 6, Sub 19, consisting of 15.31± acres, said easement to be held by the Pemi-Baker Land Trust, and to further raise and appropriate **\$7,250** which is the one-time fee for the easement.

Motion to bring to accept: Lena-Maye Williams

2nd: Paul Davis Jr.

Motion to Table: Francis Muzzey

40 = yes

19 = No

Tabled by Hand Vote

Article 17 Land Use Change Tax

To see if the town will vote to authorize 100% of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited into the Conservation fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5,III, as authorized by RSA 79-A:25,II. If adopted, this article shall take effect April 1, 2023, and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by future vote of the town meeting. (Majority vote required.)

Motion to accept: Lena-Maye Williams

2nd: Andrew Lasser

Motion to Table: Jenn Meade

2nd: Francis Muzzey

50=Yes

4 =No

Tabled by hand vote

Article 18 Conservation Appropriation

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,000** to be expended on behalf of the Conservation Commission and Town Forest in connection with activities for such conservation as set forth in RSA 36-A and expenses related to the forester.

Motion to accept: Paul Davis Sr.

2nd: John Meade

Linda Brownson spoke on items

Lots of discussion

Rick Borger Jr. stated it should be left as town forest

Re-read Article

Yes=40

No=26

PASSED by hand vote

Article 19 Forest Maintenance Appropriation

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,500** for all purposes related to forest maintenance as set forth in RSA 31:111 and 112, with funds to be deposited into the Forest Maintenance Fund. This fund is held by the municipal treasurer and managed by the Conservation Commission.

Motion: John Meade

2nd: Paul Davis Jr.

Lots of discussion

Re-read Article

Yes=29

No=36

FAILED by hand vote

Article 20

Sale of Town Forest Parcel

To see if the Town will vote to allow the Select Board and/or the Conservation Commission to sell the property designated as Town Forest located on N. Dorchester Road, Map 12, Lot 2, Sub 6 consisting of 1.1± acres with proceeds of the sale deposited to the Conservation Fund. Please note the **Town previously voted to authorize the Select Board to sell property designated as Town Forest.** The Planning Board recommends this action.

Motion to accept: Andrew Lasser

2nd: Tabitha Vlk

Jenn Meade made a motion to amend

2nd: Francis Muzzey

To see if the Town will vote to allow the Select Board and/or the Conservation Commission to sell the property designated as Town Forest located on N. Dorchester Road, Map 12, Lot 2, Sub 6 consisting of 1.1± acres with proceeds of the sale deposited to the General Fund

Amended Article as read passed by voice vote

Article 21

ETF & CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$259,100** to be placed in the following Expendable Trust Funds and Capital Reserve Funds, to come from 2023 general taxation. Please note \$50,000 to come from One Time Bridge Block payment and the remaining \$209,100 to come from 2023 general taxation. The Select Board unanimously recommends this action.

Fire Truck CRF (established 1984) \$25,000
Highway Equipment and Vehicles CRF (established 1973) \$25,000
Police Cruiser CRF (established 1993) \$9,000
Property Revaluation CRF (established 1995) \$5,000
Town Bridges ETF (established 2006) \$100,000
Town Hall Maintenance and repairs CRF (established 2000) \$5,000
Road Paving CRF (established 2002) \$50,000
Fire Department Site EFT (established 204) \$25,000
Town Office Expansion ETF (established 2017) \$15,000
Celebration ETF (established 2018) \$100

Motion to accept: Lena-Maye Williams

2nd: John Vlk

Discussion took place

Jenn Meade motioned to amend the article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$310,100** to be placed in the following Expendable Trust Funds and Capital Reserve Funds, to come from 2023 general taxation. Please note \$101,000 to come from One Time Bridge Block payment and the remaining \$209,100 to come from 2023 general taxation. The Select Board unanimously recommends this action.

Fire Truck CRF (established 1984) \$25,000
Highway Equipment and Vehicles CRF (established 1973) \$25,000