



**LYME OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2019**

In attendance: Chairman Parker Lord, Lucius Stark, Ross Byrne, Wendolyn Hill, Anthony Irving, Paul Armond, and Bob Cope. Also present was a guest engineer from Docko Incorporated, Keith Nielsen.

1. Call to order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and noted that there was no one to take minutes, Byrne volunteered.

2. Acceptance of minutes of the April 23, 2019 meeting:

The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the April minutes, there were no corrections so a motion was made to accept, voted on, and unanimously passed.

3. Further discussion on Selden Landing parcel with Keith Nielsen of Docko:

The Chair then moved to the Selden Cove project and asked Keith Nielsen with his knowledge of docks and familiarity with the Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to help the Commission come to some conclusions on the best way forward. Keith Nielsen announced that he had talked to Sue Jacobson of DEEP about this particular project. Several members discussed some of the problems the Commission had and Cope recommended starting from scratch. Armond reviewed what he had learned from Sue Jacobson including that absolutely no dredging would be permitted. Members discussed the Town and State requirements. Commission members also discussed potential problems from the public and concluded none were expected. One member brought up the issue of ADA compliance and it was mentioned that we are not using State funds for the project so it should not be necessary and ADA compliance is not needed on other town or open space trails. Nielsen brought up his previous recommendation of using fiber plastic panels to lay on the ground running into the water like a ramp. The panels are 4 ft wide by 8 ft long and are slotted so that marsh plants and grass will grow through them, that they needed to be anchored so he recommended using concrete planks placed crosswise like railroad ties. Neilson also recommended

using a bright color, as they come in various colors, and that we place two rows side by side so as to allow people to pass while carrying a kayak . Armond asked if we could purchase them with narrower slots to inhibit growth. Neilson thought it was possible. Irving asked if they will sink into the mud, Neilson answered no, there will only be approximately 10 lb per square foot. Cope asked if we can put a material underneath to inhibit grass growing and questioned if 8-foot wide was necessary. Armond offered that most of the growth in that area was wild rice and Nielsen said he believed it to be a type of natural and desirable phragmite. Cope estimated the project would need 25 panels each at \$250 plus 24 concrete ties. Nielsen again recommended 8 feet wide because it is hard to walk with a kayak on a 4 ft wide walkway. Byrne asked if DEEP thinks that this panel is less intrusive then a dock? Nielsen answered yes because the plants grow readily through the panel. Cope offered that we have plenty of volunteers to cut or mow the grass. Armond asked what happens at the water end. Nielsen suggested sloping the panel much like you would at a boat ramp. Cope suggested placing a flag or other indicator at the end. Armond discussed color and Nielsen recommended a bright color in the water and perhaps a natural color on land. Nielsen also mentioned that DEEP will want it placed in an area with the least marsh grass such as the east corner and that this arrangement of panels, side by side, will be ADA compliant. Nielsen also recommended that it be placed such that it has a uniform slope along the entire length. Nielsen suggested that we need a good survey performed or locate a survey done previously by Angus McDonald which should have that information. Hill asked if DEEP is okay with mowing. Nielsen said yes there are no restrictions in Tidal Wetlands for mowing. Armond asked if Neilson had experience with other projects using this process, Nielsen answered no. Armond noted that letting grass grow through panels will keep the roots for support. Nielsen also recommended not narrowing the slots for that reason. Cope discussed parking locations versus the ramp and property lines. Irving asked Nielsen what he needs from us to move forward on the project? Nielsen answered, "nothing, I have what I need". Irving made a motion to authorize Nielsen to put together a plan including cost and location, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Nielsen then asked how soon does the Commission want this plan and offered that he could get it to us in several weeks. The Commission agreed that that time frame was fine and thanked Neilson for his assistance. Byrne offered to follow up in several weeks by calling Docko and checking on progress.

4. Johnston Preserve:

The Chair then moved on to the Johnston property and announced that there were more problems with the submitted plan by State officials. Irving offered that he had the trails roughed in and Hill announced that Dominion Energy has offered some Engineers for a day of Labor to build or maintain Town open space land. Hill and Cope talked about how we could use Dominion labor for clearing trails on the Johnston property. Hill talked about using Dominion starting from the Pleasant Valley end and Irving suggested we use them from both ends at the same time.

5. New Business:

Hill announced that the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic committee will walk the power lines at Hartman park with Eversource so as to discuss and limit what they cut during their power line maintenance.

Byrne presented a plan view of a property off Brush Hill Road belonging to Shelley Sternicky and shared that she expressed, during a visit to the ZEO, her desire to perhaps sub-divide the property into two parcels and sell one. She expressed a desire to sell the property to someone who would preserve rather than develop. Irving asked if Byrne will refer her to the Lyme Land Trust if she decides.

6. Adjournment:

The Chair had no more news to discuss so he adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.