

**TOWN OF LEMPSTER  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Approved Meeting Minutes  
March 22, 2022**

**Board Present:** Mary Grenier, Everett Thurber and Traci Homol  
Administrative Assistant Robin Cantara

**Others Present:** David Richards, Barbara Richards, Alvin McNeill, Rachel Tirrell, Phil Tirrell, Lynda Perry, Scott Goodspeed, Kevin Onnela, Sharron Wallace, Ivan Wallace, John Nowak, Carol Stamatakis, Glenn Wirkkala and Daryl Simino.

Mary called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The Board reviewed and approved the payroll and accounts payable manifest.

Approve/Amend Minutes of Selectmen's Meetings held on March 8, 2022 and March 17, 2022. Traci moved to accept the March 8<sup>th</sup> minutes as written, seconded by Everett; all in favor. Mary moved to accept the March 17<sup>th</sup> minutes as written, seconded by Everett; Traci abstains (absent); all in favor.

**Old Business-**

**FEMA Update:**

Mary read an email received from Representative Judy Aron. In regards to legislation passed making the financial split 90% FEMA/10% Municipal; Phil explained this was to cover any incidents which occurred between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021.

**New Business-**

Traci moves to appoint Mary as Chairman, seconded by Everett; all in favor.

Mary nominates Everett to serve as Planning Board ex-officio, seconded by Traci; all in favor.

**Department Reports-**

**Cemetery Trustees:**

Carol Stamatakis and Glenn Wirkkala spoke on possible locations and the various methods used in green burials. The Trustees wanted to speak to the Board and answer any questions they may have, the Trustees are still looking into available options.

Carol asked the Board about removing the old wooden building, Mary stated it is up to the Cemetery Trustees, Everett would like to save the old hearse axle.

Carol would like to have a link on the Town website to an additional Cemetery site highlighting the Lawrence Johnson information.

**Highway Department:**

Daryl updated the Board on the condition of the roads this mud season; Long Pond Road, Keyes Hollow, Stage Road and North and South Pitkin Roads still require gravel.

Daryl would like to purchase a York rake that mounts to the plow frame on the 2021 Chevrolet, the Board would like to see the quote prior to approving the purchase; funds to come from the Highway Equipment CIP.

**Conservation Commission:**

Conservation Commission members Phil Tirrell, Lynda Perry and John Nowak spoke on the idea of utilizing Town owned properties for the sale of “Carbon Credits” the process of and the benefits of doing so. (Presentation attached). Mary would like the Conservation Commission to attend the April 12, 2022 Selectmen’s Meeting.

The Conservation Commission would like the Board to consider appointing Mindy Chadwick, Everett moves to appoint Mindy, seconded by Mary; all in favor.

**Administrative and Correspondence-**

Solar Exemption Map/Lot 201-003-000, signed by the Board.

Meeting House Restoration CIP 030 withdrawal, signed by the Board.

Appointment of Phil Tirrell to the Conservation Commission, signed by the Board.

Budget to date, Mary would like the percent to date included on the report.

Intent to Cut – Map/Lot 217-003, signed by the Board.

Miscellaneous

**Public Participation-**

Lynda Perry is looking into applying for a grant to replace the bridge on River Road; it is an 80/20 split grant; the bridge is on a Class VI road. Lynda would like to hold a fundraiser to secure the 20% match since public funds cannot be expended on Class VI roads.

**Non-Public RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel:**

At 8:13 PM Mary motions to enter non-public session, seconded by Traci; all in favor.

At 8:23 PM Traci moves, seconded by Mary to end the non-public session; all in favor.

At 8:24 PM Mary moves, seconded by Everett to return to the public meeting; all in favor.

Traci moves to seal the minutes of the non-public session, seconded by Everett; all in favor.

Mary made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:26 PM; seconded by Traci, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Cantara  
Administrative Assistant

## **Lempster Conservation Commission: Opportunity for the Town of Lempster to benefit financially from the carbon market**

Mar2022

### **Carbon offsets**

Purchase of carbon offsets by governments, businesses, and organizations seeking to reduce their net greenhouse gas emissions are a means for achieving net-zero emissions by counterbalancing their carbon emissions with a carbon reduction mechanism. Because trees absorb carbon from the atmosphere, minimizing or delaying timber harvests (resulting in continued removal of atmospheric carbon) is a common atmospheric carbon reduction mechanism. The amount of carbon estimated to be removed by trees over a period of time - typically measured in metric tons - is the basis for a carbon offset. Organizational or individual forest owners participating in carbon offset programs are paid to defer the harvesting of their timber (that might otherwise be harvested in a business-as-usual scenario) for a certain amount of time, ensuring the continued removal of a certain amount of carbon.

### **Offset brokers**

There are a number of organizations that broker the sale of carbon offsets. The Lempster Conservation Commission has reviewed carbon offset programs from four:

- Finite Carbon (<https://www.finitecarbon.com>)
- Forest Carbon Works (<https://forestcarbonworks.org>)
- Natural Capital Exchange (<https://ncx.com>)
- Family Forest Carbon Program (<https://www.familyforestcarbon.org>)

Review criteria included current program availability in New Hampshire, voluntary participation (some program participation is regulatory- or compliance-driven), minimum acreage to participate, participation cost, length of timber harvest deferral contracts, and allowance for minimal timber harvesting during the contract period. The Conservation Commission agreed that Natural Capital Exchange best met the criteria for consideration by the Town for entry into the carbon market.

### **Natural Capital Exchange (NCX)**

NCX was started in 2010 as SilviaTerra and is headquartered in San Francisco, CA. Their website indicates that their program is the largest forest carbon project in the US, involving about 2,500 landowners, 4.3 million acres, and an estimated 1.1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide retained by uncut timber to date.

NCX determines the amount of atmospheric carbon that can be removed by the trees on a parcel of land by first estimating the biomass of trees on the parcel, using satellite imagery and/or on-the-ground surveys. Next, using algorithms for both softwoods and hardwoods, the biomass tonnage is used to calculate total carbon capture over a one year contract period, and the associated number of timber harvest deferral credits for the parcel is assigned. The landowner submits bid(s) to NCX to sell these

credits, and accepted bids are the basis for a harvest deferral contract. A forester may visit the property to confirm the initial assessment or to verify end-of-contract harvest status. NCX has four program enrollment periods per year, there is no cost to the landowner to participate in the program, and harvest deferral payments are made in the month following the end of the contract period and verification of parcel harvest status.

### **Landowner actions for NCX summer 2022 program**

1. Landowner (eg; person legally authorized to represent the landowner) creates an account on the NCX website, identifies parcels to be considered using maps on the NCX website, and requests a program eligibility assessment.

Deadline for eligibility request/enrollment: 01Jun2022

2. Landowner receives eligibility assessment results beginning in mid-April or typically within a few weeks of submitting the eligibility request. NCX will provide the landowner with the number of eligible harvest deferral credits and instructions/templates for submitting a bid(s) via their website. The landowner may submit multiple bids covering no more than the totality of available credits. For example, if 100 credits are available, the landowner may submit a single bid for all 100 credits, only 50 credits, or separately priced bids for each of 40 and 60 credits.

Deadline for bid submission: 08Jun2022

3. Landowner receives notice of any bid acceptance and e-signs a one-year harvest deferral contract for accepted bid(s). Some timber harvesting is allowed, but payment to landowner is pro-rated accordingly.

4. Following the harvest deferral contract performance period - 01Jul2022 through 30Jun2023 - landowner receives a harvest status verification from NCX and payment in Jul2023. Some landowner parcels are chosen for on-the-ground verification by a forester; satellite imagery is used otherwise.