



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes

Mar 29 2022, 7:00 PM to 7:50 (Special Meeting)

Attendance:

- **Chuck Andersen – present**
- **Barbara DeVore – present**
- **Liz Fletcher – present**
- **Bob Larochelle – present**
- **Lundy Lewis – present**
- **Ann Moser – present**

Alternates:

- Matt Robinson-Liu – absent
- Rob Doyle – absent
- Charlie Lanni – absent
- Rosanna Nadeau – absent
- Chris Pratka – present

Visitors: We had three visitors at tonight's special meeting: Randy Haight, Michael Emanouil, and Darlene Emanouil. In an earlier meeting we had discussed their plans for an E-31 subdivision. They are proposing to include a 7.78 acre back lot along the RR Trail to be given for conservation, and also to grant the town ownership of most of the Quarry parking lot easement area. In tonight's meeting we discussed the conservation of Black Gum trees on their property off Scripp's Lane. Black gum trees, also called black tupelo, are becoming a rare plant community in New Hampshire, where they are at the northern edge of their North American range. They are the oldest known living hardwoods, and the oldest trees (nearly 700 years old) of any kind in New England (https://www.nh.gov/nhdfl/documents/fox_bg3.pdf). Further, Black Gum-Red Maple Basin Swamps are a rare, easily overlooked, and poorly understood wetland type.

Preparation for Planning Board meeting on Wednesday Mar 30 re: Scripp's Lane development: Completed. Michael and Darlene shared with us a document "Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica* Marsh) in New Hampshire" April 2000, a report submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory. Randy will draft easement language for Black Gum trees to be included in the E-31 subdivision development plan.