



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Thursday, December 17, 2015 6:00 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
Approved 1/21/2016**

Mrs. Harlow called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

- I. **Roll Call**
Present: Dianne Harlow, Gary Dickerman, Stephen Wood, Scott Magnuson, Kim Gogan
(at 6:25)
Absent: Nick Koloski

- II. **Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)**
 - a. **November 19, 2015**
Motion: To accept the minutes of the November 19th meeting as written.
Made by: Mr. Magnuson **Second:** Mr. Dickerman
Vote: Unanimous in favor

- III. **Finance Report**
The Commission reviewed the Finance Report for September 2015. \$5.22 interest had been earned.

- IV. **Public Comment**
Mrs. Harlow invited anyone who might be alone or in need on Christmas to a meal at the Time Out Americana Grill on December 21st at 6:00 PM. The Sullivan County ATV Club will be serving. There will be gifts for the children and Santa will be there as well.

- V. **Old Business**
 - a. **Friends of Moody Park**
Mark Brislin was on hand to discuss the idea of forming a friends group for Moody Park. He said he had talked to a similar type of group in Rutland (VT) – Pine Hill Partnership – a nonprofit organization that stewards the city-owned Pine Hill Park. Mr. Brislin suggested holding a public forum to promote the idea and to find out who might be interested. He said he will make this an agenda item for the Parks and Recreation Commission’s 2nd meeting in January – he invited the Conservation Commission members to attend.

 - b. **Invasive Species in Moody Park – Mark Brislin & Lionel Chute**
Mrs. Harlow asked what the next course of action should be. Mr. Chute suggested starting with an inventory of the invasive species known to be in the park. The

plants should be flagged and mapped to see where there are concentrations of invasives. Lastly would be supervised removal parties. Mr. Chute offered to provide training (hand removal is preferred to chemicals). He praised Mr. Wood for removing the berries from the large stand of bittersweet. He is particularly concerned about the Norway maples that are near the entrance of the park and recommended taking them down now. He offered to go to the park on Wednesday, December 23rd to flag them. Ms. Gogan, Mrs. Harlow, Mr. Magnuson and Mr. Dickerman offered to join.

Mr. Chute said overall the park is in good shape. The logging was well done and didn't disturb the soil much - which kept invasives in check - and much of the canopy is intact for shade, which also slows the invasives. He said the inventory and mapping would be most helpful. Ms. Gogan said she would approach the high school and middle school science teachers to see about possibly making this a student project.

The power lines pose a problem to the park. How Eversource handles invasives within the corridor could have a big effect on the park. It was not known at that time if the power lines are in the park or adjacent to it.

Mr. Dickerman said that the Conservation Commission should be aware of invasives in other areas of the City.

c. Bobby Woodman sign

Mrs. Harlow said that Mr. Brislin is still looking for a round steel post on which to mount the sign. She asked to keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

d. Update Judy Wells

Mr. Dickerman said that Ms. Wells has still not heard back from her contractor. Her surveyor has marked the property corner that was in question. The Commission will have to wait to hear back from her before moving forward.

e. Rail Trail ROW monumentation

Mr. Wood had copies of the earlier RR ROW maps (borrowed from Wayne McCutcheon). All agreed that the maps should be stored at the Planning and Development Department offices. Everyone viewed the maps. A big thank you to Mr. McCutcheon.

Mr. Wood would like to mark the boundary of the trail near the Marion Phillips apartment building to put a stop to the dumping of grass clippings and such over the fence. There was discussion on the matter, but no clear resolution and no action was taken.

Mr. Dickerman pointed out the trail encroachment near Maurice's. Mr. Wood said this should be brought to the attention of City Council.

f. Conservation Plan

Ms. Gogan suggested having a “work day” to work on the plan and not try to do it at a regular meeting. Mr. Dickerman will contact Nik Coates at NHACC for assistance. The work day will be scheduled for sometime in the spring.

VI. New Business

a. Shugah Valley SnoRiders – request for permission to use rail trail

Roger Wright, President of the Shugah Valley SnoRiders, asked the Commission for permission to use the rail trail for snowmobiling. The application is for one year approval. Points discussed were annual permission vs five or ten years; snowmobiles are not wheeled motorized vehicles and therefore should not jeopardize the rail trail waiver application; and the need for warning signs at street crossings. Mr. Wright will look into having Shugah Valley provide the signs.

Motion: To grant permission for snowmobile use of the trail by Shugah Valley SnoRiders for five years.

Made by: Mr. Dickerman **Second:** Mr. Magnuson

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Mrs. Harlow signed the permission request.

VII. Communications

a. Fish and Game – wetlands permit to work on Ashley Landing boat landing - request to remove silt on an annual basis.

All agreed it needs attention down there – this is an underutilized amenity because of the lack of maintenance. All agreed to keep this on the agenda.

b. Mrs. Harlow received a copy of a Cease and Desist order sent to Michael Lemieux regarding the use of a road into his gravel pit. Mr. Lemieux is prohibited from using the road until certain actions have been taken.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Wood mentioned an article he had read in the Nov-Dec issue of *Town & City* magazine. He asked that the article be scanned and sent to all of the Commission members.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Mr. Wood **Second:** Mr. Dickerman

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse

Resource Coordinator