

Note to Commission: Start this process no later than January next year.

- b. **2014 Membership Renewal in NH Association of Conservation Commissions** – Renewal of \$346 is due this month. The Commission would like to invite the new executive director, Nik Coates, to a meeting of the Commission to describe membership benefits to the Commission before the Commission decides to spend the money for renewal.
- c. **Bobby Woodman Rail Improvements** - There was nothing new to add here. It is believed that Nate Miller of UVLSRPC will be looking into grants to help with trail improvements and that he would be returning to a future meeting to further discuss them.
- d. **Update on OHRV use of Rail Trail** – this issue is still unresolved.

V. **New Business**

- a. **Emergency Communications Tower** – Tim Herson, Superintendent of Parks and Facilities at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center, presented information on a new emergency communications tower. Fire Chief Bergeron received an Emergency Operations Center Grant of approximately \$62,000. The grant provides funds for construction of a direct line of site communications tower between City Hall and the new Community Center. This would facilitate communications between the two buildings. (City Hall is the current command center during emergencies; the Community Center could be used as a second such center.) A 100-ft. tall tower would be built behind the Community Center; a second component of the tower would be located at City Hall.

The foundation (of the tower) will be abutting the rail trail property line at the back of the community center parking lot. An accurate site plan is not yet available. The tower foundation is six or seven feet deep and thirteen feet square. The actual antenna on the tower is 2.9 sqft in size.

Average tree height in the area is sixty-two feet.

The grant ends June 30th. The hope is to have the tower up by the end of May, so the Chief has time to finalize the grant in this fiscal year. If the grant is not closed out by the end of the fiscal year, the city has to file for an extension.

There should be precautions in place on the tower to prevent falling ice from causing damage or injury.

There is a possibility that someone else could lease space on the tower. There is also the possibility of replacing failed technology at Monadnock Park with this tower and a new device with a smaller footprint at the Park.

There will no attempt to disguise or camouflage the tower.

- b. **Update on Green-Up Day** – There are no official plans.

VI. Public Comment

Ken Harlow, Ward 3, Sullivan County ATV. At the last meeting the commission talked about improving the rail trail from Chestnut to Washington. Mr. Harlow proposed thinning out the brush to get more sunlight on the trail to help it dry up and help the vegetation. Perhaps removing a few trees might be necessary. There is water on both sides (of the trail).

Chairman Wood agreed that this is the most shaded portion of the trail at this time and there are times when water just sits on the trail until it sinks down in or evaporates. He agreed that this idea might help somewhat.

Chairman Wood stated that it might be useful to have a comprehensive survey done on this section of the trail – soil types, specific vegetation, invasive species, etc. and to suggest a little-or-no-cost plan to take advantage of what’s actually there.

VI. Communications

There were no communications.

VII. Other

Chairman Wood spoke of the “Garlic Mustard Muster” coming up next week.

Mr. Dickerman raised the topic of a public tour of Moody Park. Mr. Dickerman has had a conversation with Mark Brislin, Director of Parks & Recreation, regarding cleaning up at Moody Park. Mr. Dickerman suggested coordinating efforts with the Parks & Rec board. There is a lot of brush left from the logging job that Parks & Rec would like to see cleared away. The trails also need clearing. It is too wet to work there right now, but plans should be made for the future.

VII. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn the meeting

Made by: Mr. Dickerman

Second: Mrs. Harlow

Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
deForest Bearse