



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Thursday May 18, 2017 6:00 PM
Visitor Center, 14 North Street, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
Approved 6/15/2017**

Mrs. Harlow called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and asked for a roll call.

I. Roll Call

Present: Dianne Harlow, Gary Dickerman, Steve Wood, Scott Magnuson, Eileen Skowronski

Absent: Kim Gogan, Nick Koloski

II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)

a. April 18, 2017

Motion: To accept the minutes of April 18, 2017 as presented.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

b. May 2, 2017

Motion: To accept the minutes of May 2, 2017

Made by: Mr. Dickerman **Second:** Ms. Skowronski

Vote: Unanimous in favor

III. Finance Report – May

The Commission reviewed the report. No action was taken.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Mrs. Harlow asked to take up Project Red & Blue next.

Project Red & Blue (Crystal Simonds)

Ms. Simonds described the program she created several years ago called “Project Red & Blue”. The project is directed toward fostering self-esteem and confidence in school kids aged 10 – 14. The privately-funded program serves 20 kids each year. The kids work on various community-service, hands-on-type projects throughout town. Ms. Simonds asked if there were any projects the kids could do for the Commission. Some suggestions included helping with the pollinator garden at Moody Park and picking up trash on the rail trail. It was agreed that the Commission would contact Ms. Simonds with a more complete project

idea at a later date. Ms. Simonds said that Tremont House is currently running a special to raise funds for the program.

V. **Old Business**

- a. **Pollinator Garden Update (E. Skowronski)**
 - i. **Joint meeting with Claremont Garden Club, Commission and Mark Brislin (high school connection?) - set date**

Ms. Skowronski said the garden club will not be able to provide much assistance with the gardens. Mrs. Harlow and Ms. Skowronski will arrange a meeting with Mr. Brislin to discuss further.

- b. **492 Washington Street wetlands permit application (J. Waysville, project engineer) (Site Visit 5/15/2017)**

Jason Waysville, engineer for the McCutcheon project at 492 Washington Street, and Wayne McCutcheon, presented the stormwater engineering and wetlands work for the project. The project requires wetlands, alteration of terrain, and shorelands protection permits, all of which have been submitted and accepted. It is unclear what the approval timeframe will be. Mr. Waysville said he is still negotiating with DES on the stormwater design, but he and Mr. McCutcheon felt confident that they will come to a solution.

The Commission had their questions answered and will submit their comments in writing right away.

- c. **T-shirts (E. Skowronski)**

Ms. Skowronski had met with Sarah Barrett to discuss T-shirts for the commission. They will be Kelly green; the Commission can choose from white, yellow or gold lettering. Sarah will make a mock-up of the design that will be emailed to everyone for approval. The cost for 12 shirts will be \$186.00 (\$15.50 each).

- d. **Stevens Brook**
 - i. **Monitoring walk-through (5/13/2017): findings**

Mr. Wood, Mr. Dickerman, and Mr. Magnuson walked the easement on May 13th. Mr. Wood said that on the whole, things looked pretty good. The only noticeable change since their last visit was some furniture that had been dumped on the easement property, part of which had actually reached the stream. (It was suggested that someone photograph the trash and submit the photos to Ms. Merrill for further action. Mr. Dickerman said he would see to it.) Mr. Wood said they also noted some rutting in one of the old logging roads, apparently from an ATV-type vehicle. It didn't appear that the rutting was from daily use. The site was a good way from the stream and there was no erosion into the stream from the activity.

Area 2 is now completely grassed in. The plantings appear quite healthy. There were some tires stuck into the bank of the river, but they appear to have been there a while and didn't appear to be impacting the river.

Mr. Wood wrote up their findings to be submitted to DES for the record.

The ATV and dumping activities might be curtailed by putting up the appropriate signage. Prohibited activities signs can be obtained from NH Fish and Game.

It was noted that the internal boundary lines are still not flagged. Apparently, the surveyor is waiting for the signs we need to buy.

ii. Trail layout

It was suggested that the logging roads could be used as part of the trail layout and using the existing path along the stream.

Parking is still an issue that needs to be worked out. Several ideas were briefly discussed, but no decisions were made.

Mrs. Harlow asked if development of the small lot will have an impact on the easement. Ms. Merrill will be consulted.

e. Bobby Woodman Trail Walk (5/18/2017) –

- i. **Vision Discussion** – The commissioners walked the section of trail from the CSB Community Center to the bridge and back as a means of beginning the discussion of their vision for the development of the trail

Mrs. Harlow said they looked at the possible connections to Monadnock Park; noted some hazard trees alongside the trail, looked at the vegetation and conditions on either side of the trail; and looked at the trail surface. They found invasives (Norway maple and knotweed) and discussed getting rid of them. They were pleased with the diversity of trees and plants along the trail. Mr. Wood remarked about the pleasure of walking a trail that is sheltered by tree cover. He said there were many people on the trail when they were touring it.

Mr. Feleen shared a large aerial photo showing Monadnock Park and the surrounding area, including the trail. He said there are about 4-5 acres of wetlands between the park and the trail that are city-owned and not designated as a park.

Mr. Feleen said the Parks & Recreation Commission is enthusiastic about collaborating with the Conservation Commission over the trail.

ii. Connection to Monadnock Park and adjacent wetlands (Ms. Webb?)

VI. New Business

**a. Project Red & Blue (Crystal Simonds)
(Discussed earlier)**

b. Wetland Applications – discussion of process

Henceforth the City Clerk's office will include a letter from the Commission to DES with each wetlands permit application signed by her office that will notify DES of the Commission's intent to comment. This will give the Commission more time to receive, review and comment on applications. The Clerk's office has also been asked to be as prompt as possible in notifying the Commission when an application has been presented for signature.

VII. Communications

VIII. Other Business

IX. Future Agenda Items

- a. **Next regular meeting will be on June 15th.**
- b. **Next work session will be on June 6th at 6PM at the Visitor Center.** (Everyone is reminded to do their homework.)

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

de Forest Bearse