



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Thursday, May 21, 2015 6:00 PM
John Goodrich Room, SRVRTC
107 Broad Street, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
Approved 6/18/2015**

Chairperson Harlow called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

I. Roll Call

Present: Gary Dickerman, Dianne Harlow, Steve Wood, Cortney Nichols

Absent: Nick Koloski, Kim Gogan, Scott Magneson

II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)

a. March 19, 2015

Motion: To accept as presented

Made by: Mr. Dickerman **Second:** Mr. Wood **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

b. May 4, 2015

Motion: To accept as presented

Made by: Ms. Nichols **Second:** Mr. Dickerman **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

III. Finance Report

The Commissioners reviewed the finance report dated April 15, 2015. There was a brief discussion about ways in which the Commission could raise funds. Mr. Wood said that since the Commission is a 501(c) (3) organization, it is entitled to solicit and accept donations.

IV. Public Comment

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

a. Shugah Valley SnoRiders

Mrs. Harlow noted that the rail has not yet been put back. She noted that it not been put back last year either. Even though the SnoRiders are not presently able to use the trail, she said she had seen vehicular traffic on the trail that shouldn't be there. She asked for approval to get in touch with the SnoRiders to ask them to put the rail back. The Commission agreed.

b. Mulch for Woodman Trail ends

Mrs. Harlow asked for authorization to purchase 10 bags of mulch for improving the trail ends.

Motion: To authorize purchase of 10 bags of mulch using Conservation Commission funds.

Made by: Mr. Wood **Second:** Ms. Nichols **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

VII. **Communications**

a. **Wetlands Permits and Applications**

The Commission reviewed the following applications & permits:

- i. **Foisy Hill Road**
- ii. **Amerigas Propane L.P.**
- iii. **State of NH Retaining Wall**

Mr. Dickerman said he would have liked the Conservation Commission to have been notified of the presentation the State made on this project to the Historic District Commission and the Planning Board.

- iv. **Mikros Manufacturing Expansion**

Mr. Wood wanted to know if this project would impact public access to the Connecticut River.

There were no other concerns with these projects.

b. **Conservation Commission Report (UFLT)**

The Report contains reports of 2014 activities from upper valley conservation commissions. All agreed that the Report was inspirational and a source of good ideas.

VIII. **Other Business**

Mr. Dickerman asked that the Commission develop a plan of activities and keep it on the agenda.

Mr. Wood offered to locate an expert in invasive species to review the recently cut area at Moody Park. He will report back at the next meeting. All agreed.

Mrs. Harlow mentioned the upcoming Hazardous Waste collection day in August at the highway garage.

Ms. Nichols said the commission's website is going well, but more content - particularly photos - is needed.

Mrs. Harlow announced the upcoming CT River Watershed Council "River Celebration" on June 20th at the Staff of Life Garden in Windsor, VT.

Mr. Dickerman said he had attended the grant-writing workshop and recommended that other commission members do the same as he found it very helpful. He offered copies of the presentation to the members.

Mr. Dickerman suggested pursuing plans for the river frontage behind the Visitor's Center and the boat launch on The Connecticut River. He asked about making a "Conservation Plan". Mr. Wood said the Commission was involved in drafting the natural resources part of the Master Plan. Part of that project was the creation of the natural resource inventory. He said he sees the next step being to expand on that inventory and prioritize areas for protection. Mr. Dickerman pointed out that there are recommendations at the back of the inventory and in Chapter 6 of the Handbook that suggest "next steps". He asked if the other commissioners would be interested in pursuing these steps as well as perhaps trail development and conservation easement work. He opined that the commission might be more pro-active in the future. Mrs. Harlow asked that everyone read

the natural resources inventory and the Handbook and be prepared to discuss possible projects at the next meeting.

Mr. Ken Harlow asked for updates on gates for the Bobby Woodman Trail. Mrs. Harlow said the commission was waiting to see how the waiver turns out before pursuing it. She said she would look into it.

IX. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: Mr. Dickerman **Second:** Mr. Wood **Vote:** Unanimous in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse

Resource Coordinator