



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Thursday, July 21, 2016 6:00 PM
CSB Community Center, 152 South Street
Claremont NH

**MINUTES
Approved 8/18/2016**

- I. **Roll Call**
Present: Dianne Harlow, Gary Dickerman, Scott Magnuson, Steve Wood, Eileen Skowronski
Absent: Kim Gogan, Nick Koloski

- II. **Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)**
 - a. **June 21, 2016**
Motion: To accept the minutes as presented.
Made by: Mr. Wood **Second:** Mr. Dickerman
Vote: Unanimous in favor

- III. **Master Plan Subcommittee Meeting**
 - a. **Introduce members**
Bruce Denis was welcomed and introduced to the members of the Conservation Commission.

 - b. **Create work plan**
Mrs. Bearse suggested that members familiarize themselves with the existing plans as a first step to updating the chapter.

 - c. **Next steps**
Everyone will get familiar with the plans and be ready to make suggestions for changes and updates at the next meeting of the subcommittee.

 - d. **Next meeting**
The next meeting of the subcommittee will be on August 6th at 9AM in the Conference Room at the CSB Community Center.

- IV. **Finance Report**
There was no finance report.

- V. **Public Comment**
There were no public comments.

VI. Old Business

a. Forest Management Plan

Marty Davis expressed concern about the logging that is proposed for Arrowhead for a number of reasons. He asked if the focus of the Forest Management Plan could be shifted away from an economic focus and toward a recreational focus. Many people use Arrowhead for low-impact recreation and don't want to see the beautiful mature trees cut down for money. Removing dead or dying trees is acceptable, but he acknowledges that this may not be economical for the City. He asked that the end result be better looking than what happened at Moody Park. He also said he was concerned about the removal of trees from behind the middle school. This would alter the essential character of Broad Street.

The Commission expressed gratitude for the feedback and agreed that they did not want a repeat of the Moody Park logging operation. Another challenge is how to keep the public and interested parties informed of the public meetings and tours that precede the logging operations.

Mr. St. Pierre was not present at the meeting to discuss the upcoming logging operations at Rice Reservoir, Winter Street, the Transfer Station and the Airport.

b. Pollinator Garden Discussion – Mark Brislin

Mr. Brislin was unable to attend the meeting, so this discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

c. Approve cost overage for weed pullers (\$300 was approved 4/26/2016)

Motion: To approve the overage of \$4.56.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion: To reimburse Mr. Dickerman \$304.56 for two weed-removers.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

d. Stevens Brook Conservation Easement

i. Signage

According to the easement, the signage was to have been erected by the owner of the property. The signs have not been erected and the property has changed hands. Mr. Dickerman learned that the bill had never been paid in full to the consultant assisting on the project, and thus the signs had never been erected. Planning & Development Director Nancy Merrill is looking into it. Mr. Dickerman said that Horizon Engineering estimates it will cost \$500 to have the survey work done. (Some of the boundaries of the easement area are not monumented in the field which makes it difficult to determine the actual boundaries of the easement area.) The cost of purchasing and putting up the signs is unknown.

ii. Structure on property

Mr. Wood said it is unclear if the structure is in the easement area or not. This can be determined once the boundaries are clearly marked.

It was agreed that there should be a sign on the easement listing the restrictions on the property.

iii. Bike tracks

It is unclear who is responsible for enforcing the conditions of the easement.

e. Friends of Moody Park – schedule next meeting

It was agreed that Mark Brislin should be invited to the next Commission meeting to clarify everyone's roles in the formation and sustaining of the Friends group and to perhaps work out a mission statement.

f. Rail Trail

i. Clean-up – Sullivan County ATV Club final clean-up

Mrs. Harlow said the section of the trail between Broad Street and Pleasant Street still needs cleaning. The Commissioners agreed to do it, but asked that volunteers also be solicited. The date was set for August 9th at 5:30 PM. Everyone is to meet at Putnam's frame shop on Pleasant Street.

ii. Results of monumentation search

Mr. Wood said there is considerable encroachment on the trail by adjacent users in the section behind Reeds Trucking, Maurice's, and Enterprise Car Rental.

Mr. Wood said he would like to check the section of trail behind the Marion Phillips Apartments as well. He'll take some measurements during the trash walk on the 9th.

It is unclear who is responsible for enforcing the boundaries of the trail. Presenting the situation to the City Solicitor seemed the most logical next step, though no date was set for doing that.

Mr. Dickerman said the Commission needs guidance from Council before investing anymore time in establishing trail boundaries and enforcing them when they are encroached upon.

iii. Waiver denial

The Federal Highway Administration has formally denied the request for a waiver which would allow motorized vehicles on the trail. Mrs. Harlow said that the ATV Club held a meeting to which the public and elected officials were invited to discuss the FHA's options. The discussions will continue.

The waiver denial makes proceeding with the Rail Trail Master Plan a bit easier. It was agreed that the Commission will return to working on it during the winter.

g. Conservation Plan – approve final draft

The Commission changed the words, “build upon” to “add to” in the Goal #3 recommendation and changed the word “earn” to “learn” in item #3 of Appendix A.

Motion: To adopt the Conservation Plan dated 6/15/2016 with the above corrections.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

VII. New Business

VIII. Communications

IX. Other Business

Mr. Magnuson said he had attended a meeting about the East Street improvements. He said there will be another meeting in August. The Commission asked to be notified of the next meeting.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The next meeting will be on August 18th. Mrs. Harlow will be unable to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse