



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
WORK SESSION**

Tuesday, August 22, 2017 6:00 PM  
Visitor Center, 14 North Street, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES  
Approved 9/21/2017**

**Present:** Gary Dickerman, Steve Wood, Scott Magnuson, Eileen Skowronski  
**Absent:** Kim Gogan, Nick Koloski

**I. Rail Trail Master Plan**

The initial discussion revolved around the Commissioners' views of the rail trail.

Mr. Wood provided some background history on how the trail came to be assigned to the Conservation Commission. He said the trail was assigned to the Commission shortly after the City took ownership of it, primarily due to the number of Commissioners who were active ATV users and who had a strong interest in caring for the trail. Bobby Woodman used to donate his time and construction equipment to maintain the trail each year.

Mr. Wood said that the public hearing on the rail trail master plan was attended predominantly by ATV users and snowmobilers – very little general public. He thought it would be useful to hold another public hearing, now that motorized vehicles are banned from the trail, to once again gauge the public's interest.

After much discussion about the trail and the Commission's priorities, the consensus developed that the Commission's vision of the trail is a resource that serves to provide both conservation educational opportunities and a recreational resource. As such, the Commission wishes to share development and maintenance of the trail with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Commission sees its role as caretakers and guardians of the natural resources that border the trail and developing educational opportunities around those resources.

It was agreed to schedule a joint meeting with the Parks & Recreation Commission to continue developing a shared vision and plan.

**II. Adjournment**

The session adjourned at 7:05 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*de Forest Bearse*