



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING**

Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:00 PM  
Visitor Center, 14 North Street, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES  
Approved 10/19/2017**

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

**I. Roll Call**

**Present:** Gary Dickerman, Steve Wood, Scott Magnuson, Eileen Skowronski, Kim Gogan  
(arrived at 6:40 PM)

**Absent:** Nick Koloski

**II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)**

**a. August 10, 2017 (Notes)**

**Correction:** Change "Land Ridge Road" to "Lane Ridge Road"

**Motion:** To accept the notes of August 10, 2017 as corrected

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

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**b. August 17, 2017**

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of August 17 as presented

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

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**c. August 22, 2017**

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of August 22 as presented

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

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**d. Sept. 12, 2017**

**Amendment/correction:**

(1) Add the word "(motorized)" to the 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence of the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph on page 1

(2) Change the word "is" to "in" in the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph on page 1

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of September 12<sup>th</sup> as amended and corrected

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

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**III. Finance Report**

The Commission reviewed the latest financial report. No action was needed or taken.

#### IV. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### V. **Old Business**

##### a. **Pollinator Garden Update (E. Skowronski)**

The 100 SF garden site has been turned over. Next steps will include removing the grass, rototilling it, adding amenities and planting. It will probably be done the week of Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>.

##### b. **Stevens Brook**

###### i. **Prohibited Activities Sign – posting update**

Five signs have been erected. Mr. Dickerman would like to schedule a weekend day to put up five more signs.

The tree stands have not yet been removed.

A trail bike came onto the property when Mr. Dickerman was there, but he did not see or speak with the rider.

###### ii. **Trail Layout**

Representatives from the Student Conservation Association will meet with the Commission at the easement on Tuesday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at 9AM to explore possible trail layout.

###### iii. **Water Quality Monitoring Program**

Discussion of this topic was delayed until Ms. Gogan could be present.

##### c. **Rail Trail**

###### i. **Survey Estimates**

Two estimates for the survey have been received. Both were in the neighborhood of \$10,000. deForest has been tasked with finding grant funds. Mr. Dickerman is opposed to spending any Commission funds on the survey, but is not opposed to looking for grant funds. Mr. Magnuson is in favor of surveying sooner rather than later as the cost will only increase over time. Mr. Wood said the survey area may also be a good place for a boat launch.

(Ms. Gogan arrives.)

###### **Water Quality Monitoring Program**

The Commission is hoping that Ms. Gogan can find a teacher to take this on with a class. Equipment is available through Fish and Game (and probably through Sullivan County Conservation District). Ms. Gogan said she will try.

###### ii. **Master Plan –**

1. **results from 8/22/17 Commission work session**
2. **results from 9/12/17 joint meeting**

Everyone agreed that the joint meeting with the Parks & Recreation Commission went well.

There was discussion about creating connections from the trail to other points of interest in Town. deForest has been tasked with creating some large-scale aerial photos for the Commission to use to start exploring ideas.

d. **Ashley Ferry Landing**

i. **Update**

There will be a meeting of City staff and Garrett Graaskamp on October 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the future of the boat launch.

**VI. New Business**

One of the homeowners who abuts the rail trail had their retaining wall rebuilt. Its configuration was completely changed from what it was originally (from a vertical wall to a steep slope). The native vegetation has been replaced with grass which the homeowner plans to maintain as grass. The rail trail was used for access by the construction equipment. All of the work was done within the trail ROW and without prior consultation with the Commission.

This situation constitutes new ground for the Commission. A legal opinion is required to determine if the Commission has the authority to create reclamation standards.

It was agreed that once the legal opinion is obtained, a direct mailing to all abutters is the best way to inform them of the Commission's jurisdiction over activities within the trail.

The Commission would like to invite someone from the Upper Valley Land Trust to visit the Commission to learn more about the portion of the Hill conservation land that is in Claremont.

**VII. Communications**

**VIII. Other Business**

**IX. Future Agenda Items**

Next meeting will be on October 19<sup>th</sup>. November's meeting will be on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**X. Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting

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

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*deForest Bearse*