

Conservation Commission

Minutes of April 19, 2012

Meeting Called To Order at 7:05 p.m.

I. Roll Call – Steve Wood, Chairman; Steve Cutts; Nick Koloski; Dianne Harlow, Vice Chairman

II. Review of minutes from March 26, 2012

Motion to accept by: Nick Koloski Seconded by: Steve Cutts

Review of minutes from April 2 2012

Motion to accept by: Nick Koloski Seconded by: Steve Cutts

III. Finance Report

None Included in our mailing

IV. Old Business:

- Natural Resources Inventory – an individual has been selected – contract negotiations are in process – hope to start within next two weeks. He has experience with college students. Conservation Commission needs to meet with him....Also suggestion that we meet earlier in evening for this meeting as he travels from Keene.

V. New Business:

- Conservation Camp Sponsorship – what is status of sponsorships?
- Rail Trail discussion on changing a specific section of rail trail adjacent to the New Community Center to non-motorized traffic. Suggestion was made to close the section of trail from Chestnut St. to Pleasant St. ONLY to all motorized vehicles. Create a new “ramp” near the Chestnut Street end and up to Summer St. Both the Shugah River Valley Snowmobile Club and the Sullivan County ATV Club had representatives at the meeting and were in agreeance of the proposed closure.
 - a. Does the snowmobile currently groom this section? Roger Wright, Trail Administrator, of Shugah River Snowmobile Club answered: They do groom this section of trail as a service for pedestrian’s only.
 - b. Do we need a gate at the Broad Street entrances on both sides to prevent mis use of the trail? General consensus is that some type of deterrent is needed at road entrances.
 - c. When will the new ramp open through to Arrowhead from the trail? Scott Hausler, Director of Parks and Recreation answered: Construction of the trail is pretty close to fruition.....a temporary fence might be possible to separate the trail from the parking lot.

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- d. Osgood Welding is working on improving the trail near the Broad Street entrance including drainage, reshaping and resurfacing.
- e. Some snowmobile/ATV owner's live at Lavalley's end and tend to use the spur from Broad Street to Pleasant Street, so a permanent blockage might not be the best solution. Also lots of pedestrian's use the same spur. There is a trailhead at the Pleasant Street entrance with a steel gate.
- f. Is there gate funding available through the Conservation Commission? Might be possible.
- g. Who will take care of signage? And Trail Maintenance?
- h. Jim Feleen, asked if there needs to be a pedestrian crosswalk at Broad Street? Steve Cutts mentioned that crosswalk requests need to go through City Council then on to the Traffic Committee.

Motion made by Steve Cutts: To close off the Rail Trail to prohibit motorized traffic, starting at the new spur at the Chestnut Street entrance and continuing across Broad Street to Pleasant Street. Seconded by Dianne Harlow

Discussion: Proposal needs to go to City Council for endorsement.

Motion passes

- Jersey barriers on rail trail by the bridge near Reeds – have they been repositioned? It is now on the Washington Street side and has been painted with orange exes. Roger suggested that two posts, centered on the trail, so vehicles cannot get through would make better sense. Roger's company is willing to donate the posts for the Washington Street end of the trail.

VI. Communications

- By laws included in packet – thoughts and suggestions for changes, etc..... to be included on next months agenda.

VII. Other

- Issue of Claremont Concord Railroad – call from an Engineer from Claremont/Concord Railroad about repairing the track intersection near the bike shop. Are there any conservation concerns for this crossing area? Our question: Is the Planning Commission aware of this – does it really pertain to us?
- Discussion for the future – how do we include Monadnock park to the trail system. Add to next month's agenda.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by: Nick Koloski Seconded by: Steve Cutts

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Dianne Harlow