

Town of Jackson
Conservation Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting - April 1, 2024 - 5:00PM
(Unofficial Until Approved)

Present: Pam Smillie, Ben Halcyon, Richard Bennett, Ken Kimball.

Attendees: Hank Benesh

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm.

Nomination of Officers:

Ken made a motion to Nominate Ben Halcyon as Chair, Brian Byrne as Vice-Chair, and Pam Smillie as Secretary, seconded by Dick. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

March 2024 Meeting Minutes

Ken made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written, seconded by Dick. All in favor.

Prospect Farm:

Ken wanted the commission to know that the Jackson Ski Touring Foundation MOA expires this fall and a new agreement with the town will be proposed. Ellen Chandler has asked to come and make a presentation to the commission in the next few months.

There was a brief discussion on orchard pruning timing and a late fall date will be easier to schedule and will be more accessible.

The new parking area will be worked on by Highway Department later this spring and will be able access the sandpit that is in WMNF with an estimated half day of work.

Jackson Falls:

Emily Benson is waiting on coordination with FEMA and will update when more information is available.

Temporary Pathway Closure

Brian has talked with a logging company to provide wood chips and pending Road Weight Restrictions being lifted they will deliver to the falls. Pam has spoken with Bob Santoro who has volunteered the use of his Bobcat to help spread the wood chips.

Valley Cross Bridge Construction

The bridge construction contractor has been flagging trees for removal prior to the start of construction and some residents had asked why these trees were selected and what would happen to control erosion. Town Engineer Burr Phillips was asked to comment and he replied;

Those near the bridge (upstream side, closest to Carter Notch Rd) will either be fully in the way of the wing wall construction or half their roots will be cut. I believe the two closer to Carter Notch Rd (on the village side) will be impacted by the approach road reconstruction such as significant roots cut. Also, the federal design/safety standards (linked to the state funding) require a "clear zone" next to the road so errant vehicles don't impact fixed objects such as trees.

Ben commented that the most important thing the Commission can do is to make sure that the contractor installs and maintains the erosion controls as specified by NHDES and to notify the state if they are not up to standard.

Dick will provide the Commission copies of the Easement documents that transferred portions of the falls to the town

Chief Perley has a handicap placard to be posted at the porta-potty parking.

Gray's Inn:

Dick mentioned that at one time the vernal pool was going to be drained but was maintained in its current state and that a trail had been discussed that would provide easier public access.

Community Garden:

Nothing to Report

Wildcat River:

Ben has reached out to the VRAP coordinator again for updated planning materials but has not heard back from him. Pam will reach out to contact at NHDES to see if there is another way we can coordinate.

Conservation Easements:

Still having issues pulling up past years executory interest history and saving reports for some properties. Tom Seidel has not expressed interest in continuing as commissioner so Ken Kimball will take over monitoring of the Brookside Farm property. Ken has some experience with the property and will verify the most current contact information.

Wetlands:

Rick Van de Poll sent a letter informing the commission that he would be filling a wetlands permit soon for work to restore trout habitat in the Dundee Community Forest.

Dundee Community Forest:

Ben discussed the management meeting highlights, the MOA has been signed by the select boards of Bartlett and Jackson, the two at large positions have been filled, the management plan was amended to allow for maple sugaring, Peter Benson was nominated and approved as Chair of the Management Committee and Ann Bennet as Secretary, there was a discussion as to the utility of a treasurer for the board since all monies would be coming from USVLT which has the responsibility to manage the funds. Ken Kimball sought some clarification between the managing documents and easement and whether Jackson Ski Touring would be able to require a trail pass to access any potential XC-Ski trails.

New Business:

Public Comment:

There were no additional comments.

Ken needed to leave early so the meeting was adjourned in absence of a quorum.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Halcyon

To view the full video recording of this meeting visit www.jacksonflicks.com/Jackson