

Town of Jackson  
Conservation Commission Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
March 7, 2022 - 5:30PM  
(Unofficial Until Approved)

Present: Ken Kimball, Pam Smillie, Ben Halcyon, Brian Byrne, Mike Dufilho, and Alternate Dick Bennett.

Attendees: Videographer Hank Benesh.

Brian Byrne called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes:**

February 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes - **Mike Dufilho made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ben Halcyon. All approved.**

**Prospect Farm:**

General Stewardship - Plan Town Meeting

Ken Kimball will attend the Town Meeting in case any residents have any questions. The meeting is Thursday at 7pm.

**Jackson Falls:**

Path Material, Grant Opportunity - Kiosks

Mike Dufilho spoke with Emily Benson, who shared some grant information (AARP Community Challenge Grant) specific to pathway assistance for reasonable accommodations to pathways under an age friendly category. Money may not be needed for this project, but the grant could be an option if money is needed, or if more extensive pathways are considered. **Ben Halcyon made a motion to proceed with the contract and pricing that Chairman Sires negotiated for the kiosk, seconded by Mike. All approved.**

Mike discussed location options for the Kiosk, which has not yet been finalized.

Ken Kimball suggested at the next meeting, a timeline should be created for the Jackson Falls projects, similar to what they did for the Community Garden.

**Gray's Inn Community Garden:**

Pequawket Foundation Grant Update

Pam Smillie said that Chairman Sires did a great job with his presentation for the grant. They were already notified that they were approved for the full \$2,000 for the Community Garden. Pam has been looking at photographs of other community gardens, and found some great options for handicapped

accessibility, which seem better than what was originally planned.

### Review Proposed Timeline, Management Structure - New Grant Opportunity

Pam spoke to the Jackson Water Precinct and found out that the Town and the Library do not pay for water, so she would like to talk to them about water usage for the garden. Pam also said they will need to work with the Library to make sure the placement of the garden doesn't interfere with where the Library places their summer tent. Ken sent some websites to Chairman Sires to review for sample bylaws.

Some of the tasks that need to be completed prior to the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting are:

- contact interested residents
- solicit more interest if needed
- hold an initial planning meeting via Zoom with all stakeholders including, residents, commission, town and library
- produce a brief report
- draft bylaws

Pam volunteered to draft the bylaws. Brian offered to coordinate getting the materials (to include time, labor, donations and discounts). And it was suggested that Chairman Sires could set up a Aoom meeting.

The May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting would be a chance to review and finalize everything before presenting to the Selectmen, and then the targeted construction dates are May 16<sup>th</sup> through May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The ease of construction will be based on how many people are interested in participating in the Community Garden.

Mike suggested that in the Fall, there should be a wrap up to the project, and the commission could further define who will be the future governing party for the garden.

### **Wildcat River:**

#### Tin Mountain Wild & Scenic Grant Update

Mike discussed the upcoming field trip for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade JGS students, where they will be at the Prospect Farm orchard learning how to trim trees. At the end of the year, part of this grant project does include another field trip, which is taking the same group on a three day hut trip up to Carter Notch. The children are not yet aware of this trip.

### **Conservation Easements:**

Nothing to report.

### **Wetlands:**

Nothing to report.

**New Business:****Black Mountain Road Manure Pile**

The horses that are kept at the Black Mountain Ski area stables have a manure pile that seems to move season to season. The concern is the close proximity to Great Brook. After some research regarding the best management practices for manure, it was suggested that this information be passed along to Black Mountain stables to make them aware of said best practices. The Commission Chair will send a letter and advise them on how to correct the matter, so it doesn't result in a further complaint to the Department of Agriculture. The Commission will request a reply prior to their next meeting. they would also like to mention the number of swimmers in Whitney's Pond that could be adversely affected. This is also not the first time this complaint has been made.

Dick Bennett wanted to know if anyone spoke to Fran Lyons regarding his property up by Prospect Farm. He said there is going to be an initiative to raise money for town wide planning, which came about after the discussion on the request for a new fire station. He thought someone could see if Fran had any interest on selling or donating his land. Ken said that he and Peter Benson had previously spoken to Fran about this, and he said it was an interesting idea, but nothing ever came of it. Ken suggested that first, the Stewardship Plan needs to be approved at Town Meeting, and then the Commission could approach Fran to discuss this topic again. The land in question is land locked, so it may be something Fran would want to sell or donate.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**Pam Smillie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ben Halcyon. All approved.**

Respectfully submitted by Erik Atwell

**To view the full video recording of this meeting visit [www.jacksonflicks.com/Jackson](http://www.jacksonflicks.com/Jackson)**