

## **Minutes Jackson Conservation Commission 11.6.2017**

### **Draft**

Present: Tom, Mark, Brian, Pam, Margaret, Bill, Mike

Susan

Hank

Member of the public: Laurie Gabriel

**Minutes** - what's a fascime? Bundles of plantable twigs. Motion to approve: MG Seconded: BT approved with no changes

### **Prospect Farm:**

Pam: someone commented that signs were very nice at Prospect Sign

Brian - the one at picnic table at Hall's Ledge split - could be repaired for starters

Mark - blue sign "leaving town lands" is at his house - Tom: might be JSTF - could put it up just past the stump dump (this sign shows limits of town land after which one needs ski trail pass)

Mark will rehang

What event for CC to host at Prospect Farm next year?

Road race? Boggy Brook to Road or other way around? Add in other trails? Include walkers!

Must consider: as soon as it leaves town property and goes to forest service land there are permit and fees to navigate~ may be dependant on whether fees are charged ~ CC could OK the hosting of race by 3rd party non-profit, etc. Just a 5-10k loop on town land a possibility? Bill: run with it!

Race committee: Margaret, Mike, Mark - for fall race: dry, fewer bugs with cider pressing at finish line.

Mike will make a list of non-profits.

Also: Prospect Farm Management Plan needs to be written by Dec. Meeting: Brian, Margaret, Mark. This is in addition to forestry plan - a management plan of recreation and cultural sites - NH Assco CC probably has templates, other towns to mimic. For the Falls? The Wild & Scenic designation is not enough (see next.)

**Jackson Falls:** Management Plan needs to be written. After the rain: soil moved (phenomenal), chips washed away, some grass survived, highest water mark Bill has seen, similar to after Hurricane Irene, all planting east of the path seem to be gone.

Pam suggests using fascimes next year - better survival rate. Money from Current Use. Also - Brian suggested larger plantings at fence ends to limit new trails. Do the chips in the spring (less flooding!?! ) Bill suggests to use the storm's damage to show the effort that needs to be made next.

Porta potty removed for hibernation today.

Tom: working on next year plan for Falls: getting away with parallel parking, designating residents only spaces. Will take it to selectmen.

3 requests for donating memorial benches at Falls: CC needs to have a statement for town office when people call to inquire and a plan for memorial benches and their maintenance- maybe a fund with sign with names of those who donate to upkeep of Falls, plant a tree, etc.

Bill: reconstruction will happen soon for green bridge at Falls: CC has a chance to incorporate these requests to make the bridge handsomer than a bare bones project.

**Gray's Inn** - knotweed eradication: spraying is a yearly operation. Pulling is constant. How to control? Mike: we need another work day. Pam has a new tool "uprooter" for buckthorn.

**Conservation Easements:** Tom will resend the guidelines to CC members. He's sent letters to easement owners.

**Public Comments:** Laurie Gabriel spoke about creating a warrant article for tax relief for homeowners who install alternative energy (solar, in particular, this year) that would increase their home's taxes with the improvement (dept of revenue suggests each alternative energy type have a separate warrant article) i.e., Wouldn't be taxed on solar improvement  
Retrofitted energy efficient furnace doesn't increase taxes, but retrofitted solar installation does. Not necessarily retroactive. 30-some towns in NH do this. Tax neutral.  
If an article isn't passed to prevent the taxing of solar improvements it is taxed automatically. Last year CC did recommend support to selectmen. Laurie is asking the CC would promote/or at least put no impediments to those who want to do a solar improvement.  
Tom: CC was criticized for bringing the article forward at the expense of those who don't benefit. So, CC would support but not bring it forward.

Laurie presented the warrant that she noted was copied exactly from the NH State Dept Revenue website. This warrant make solar improvement tax neutral. An incentive for solar. Arguments con from CC or heard: tax neutral is taxes not collected. Only the rich can afford it, so only they benefit, tax revenues are shrinking in Jackson...

Discussion ensues: how much rain did we get last week? 5.5 inches? Different sources reporting different numbers.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and voted yea at 6:25 PM

Respectfully submitted, Susan Ross-Parent