

Conservation Commission Minutes DRAFT
Feb. 5, 2018
5:30 PM, Town Office

CC members present: Tom Seidel, Margaret Graciano, Mark Ross-Parent, Mike Dufilho, Brian Byrne, Pam Smillie, Bill Terry.
Hank Benesh filmed. Susan Ross-Parent took notes.

Review Minutes (Jan. 2 Meeting) - straw poll=informal poll. Reduce space. Conservation easements: SPNHF: 2016 there was confusion, 2017 back and forth - not a Wildcat Valley Trail Area is not CC monitored easement. Accepted with 2 amendments.

Prospect Farm

Management plan update

Brainstorming: Tom thinks we should have a plan that says “we manage this property, and this is what we would like to see....” He advocates for writing down the status quo. What are our goals? To develop more trails. Essentially it would cover how we as a board feel about Prospect Farm and the way that it should be used. Tom said the woman from UNH said she may have some management plan resources to help us do this but he hasn’t heard back from her yet. CC member suggested that CC be clear in their plans for PF: in past discussions that brought in a great deal of input from the town that resulted in keeping the area’s use as status quo. So for March meeting add the brainstorming and plans (Tom wants to guide process) Now that there are more things that can be done than there were 20 years ago - time to update (now drones, fat tire bikes, etc...not around 5 years ago.) Now to create in a way that is more general and easy to update as guideline/mission statement that states CC interests in preserving land. This needs to include who negotiates PF use with different entities: ex., selectboard negotiates with JSTF for their use of PF, not CC. Suggestion: public work session 5-6 PM on Feb 19, 2018.

Bill leaves at 6:25.

Jackson Falls

Spring Plans -

Seedlings - A CC member contacted Sean Sweeney about planting seedlings at the Falls - using rebar to drill hole. Clippings of dogwood, willow, grey or red osier dogwood - just do clippings, don’t buy. Ways listed to plant the bank with sets of seedlings. This is different from what we’ve been doing - may be more successful. Timing matters: must be while plants dormant, cut and plant within a few days. Do this in addition to seedlings we get from the state. Aim for planting around the time we’d get seedlings from state.

Parking - CC member led group through Joyce Allen’s efforts since last meeting to contact Kenny Crowther and State of NH DOT engineer (parking on Carter Notch Rd., a state road) who seemed interested in changes: suggested a meeting in the spring when the snow clears with sketches of the proposed parking zone and that Burr Phillips is working with town on sidewalks/walkway near/over bridge at Falls, could coordinate the two projects. Discussion ensued around two questions from CC: would we recommend this to selectmen? They want all the legwork done, ready to present as a fully fleshed out project. CC feelings mixed on the this: from eliminating all parking to eliminating the parallel spaces on Carter Notch. Discussing this

as a safety issue in addition to erosion issue will carry more weight with the town as suggested by selectmen. The Falls plan lists managing access points and limiting volume of use. Eliminating parallel parking will limit volume. May also help with erosion.

Spring Plan to Selectmen:

1. Continue plantings and mulch
2. Eliminate 4 parallel parking spots on Carter Notch Rd. to improve safety and slow erosion.

CC member suggests getting TO DO list for changing parking on a state road from the state, (the legwork) giving it to selectmen to get a committee to continue work. CC will have supported with getting the information.

Tax Map Update - CC member researched the Tax Map and found that there are lots that don't exist any longer. Current owners of area near lower Falls not clear: Mallett or Condo Assoc? Recently went through Planning Board, Bill is on Planning Board, too. Both own some property on the river.

Gazebo area - owned by Wentworth but the quit claim gives access to town forever. The beige house and the river frontage behind it is part of the condo association. Mallett Corp owns another section nearby.

There is an area where the town has full access but has no owner indicated. The PB discussion indicated that town has access to bridge to bridge, everything in the river bed.

Gray's Inn - nothing new (be sure to check out the story trail behind the library)

Conservation Easements - on-going monitoring

New Business / Public Comment

A CC member brings up a citizen concern about treestands (for deer hunting) near the road at PF - too close for safe shooting. This is something that could be set as guidelines in the PF Plan. Nat'l Forest guidelines differ from state guidelines, and may also be subject to private landowner permission and stipulations.

Signs at PF did not hold up well in weather. Need to be sturdier - reinforced, put on trees instead of stakes. Printing may have been for 10 years, but they need backers. Also - at Falls, need to order more brown stakes through Pat Kelley.

Governor of NH starting review of wetlands regulations: hearings all around NH to give feedback. For lessening regulations for building? CC member suggested that board attend a hearing and advertise them to the public.

Next regular meeting: Monday, 5:30, March 5, 2018

Motion to adjourn: 6:30

As always, the public is encouraged to attend and share their vision for the use of Jackson town properties and other conservation priorities. Our meetings are typically at 5:30 PM at the town office building on the first Monday of each month

Respectfully submitted by Susan Ross-Parent