

Conservation Commission Minutes DRAFT
Mar 5th, 2017
5:30 PM, Town Office

Members of Conservation Commission: Tom Seidel, Brian Byrne, Pam Smillie, Bill Terry, Margaret Graciano, Mark Ross-Parent, Mike Dufilho.
Hank Benesh filmed. Susan Ross-Parent took notes.
Members of public: Peter Benson, Bruce Stelle

Review Minutes - adopted as amended -**Special chunk of town land similar to NF...**

Public Comment - Peter Benson: placement of 2 tree stands a problem: w/in 100 ft of intersection of orchard and Wildcat Valley trail. One is new, and temporary. The other has been there a long time and the tree has grown around the spikes. Conservation officer seemed unconcerned. Worried about falls from the stand and a question if there's been a permit requested of the owners (to CC as agent of land owner) and that the stands should be removed after hunting per NH regulations.

Plan: wrap into management plan for Prospect Farm and get the education out there: similar to wetlands permit: contact CC to get permit. Now: check with town office to see if there are existing permits and/or existing process to get permit. Also: Expect that state hunting rules are followed, keep permit on file, request that the stand be labeled with owner's name and contact info. Propose: adopt NF setbacks for hunting (stricter.)

Prospect Farm

-Continue management plan conversation

Tom presents a notebook of a 10-year mission plan for CC, that can be updated, probably written by Phil Davies in the mid 2000s. There's a section on the management plan from then re: Prospect Farm.

Discussion of process of editing what was compiled during Feb. 19, 2018 work session and comparing to the 10-yr plan.

Group takes time to review the draft of the mission statement for Prospect Farm (started in work session.)

"Multi-use" instead of "traditional use".

Dog waste signs - useful? Like the one at Whittaker Woods?

"Safety and security" in the mission fits with parallel mission of National Forest

Final draft will be presented at the April meeting for read-through and approval by commission.

Grant sources to check out:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/> - suggested source from Ann

Bennett/<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/forests/>

NH Fish and Game Private Small Lands Conservation Program -mentioned in 10-year mission -
<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/habitat/small-grants.html>

Jackson Falls

-spring planning: order seedlings - same list as last year. Should arrive in early May. Tentative work date to be set: spring clean up, planting, pick of plants at White Lake State Park (Bill says we can stage seedlings at his house.) Ferns?

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nh/water/?cid=nrcs144p2_015853

Soil? Wood chips? Will decide amount at next meeting.

Also: possible to get mats to help transplant blueberries. Check dams clean outs, set ups near Falls.

Bill leaves at 6:25 PM

Tom still waiting to hear from State Engineer to get back to him about parking in the state right of way at the Falls. Two actions possible: limit parallel parking on Carter Notch Rd and adding spaces at the corner. Find out process of the No Parking "Temp order" on Carter Notch near Woodchuck Fields parking area during ski season.

Do a sign inventory for a re-order for summer.

Also: Overflow Parking signs - to Lower Falls Parking lot, and JSTF's Valley Cross Lot - ask Pat Kelley, Road Agent, if there are any on reflective material (or order.) Double check with JSTF that parking is available (those trails are available for walking in the summer, fall, etc.) and info sign on kiosk or post? Earlier than later, better.

The outhouse: will be coming back. Seemed to work.

Gray's Inn - knotweed attack by scouts? Discussion ensued about the reality of maintenance vs eradication. CC plan is required to control the knotweed but most control measures only spread it. Certain areas require to be controlled: a dam was put in to make pond and when dam removed the knot weed had to be controlled. So, concentrate efforts there.

Ask for more consistent mowing on trails behind library and the Gray's inn area.

Adjourned: 6:40 PM

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.