Jackson Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes August 6, 2018

Present were members: Tom Seidel, Margaret Graciano, Bill Terry, Brian Byrne, and Pam Smillie Absent were Mike Dufilho and Mark Ross-Parent.

Visitors included Burr Phillips, Chris Lubicz-Nawrocki, and Joyce Allen

We didn't have the minutes from our July meeting to review.

In July, Tom said that he would email all members their easement monitoring letters and he didn't. But he will this month!

Regarding last month's mention of a possible easement of the land under a portion of the Eagle Mountain Golf course, Tom received a letter from the owners: "We would like to inform the Jackson Conservation Commission that we, the owners of the Eagle Mountain Golf Course, are currently exploring all possible options for its future as we consider if and how to restructure our company, CHP Realty Trust." and asked that comments be directed to two representatives of the Trust, Emily Miller and Angus Badger.

Wetlands Permits

The USFS applied for a wetlands permit regarding the Doublehead parking lot. We got a letter notifying us that they received their permit. But we have had nothing to do with it.

Burr Phillips came to talk to us about a future wetlands permit for Meserve Brook on behalf of the Jackson Water Precinct. There are two dams in Meserve Brook that are the back-up water source for the Jackson Water Precinct and provide about 20% of the precinct's power. Their plan is to remove the lower dam in 2018, reconstruct the upper dam in the future and rebuild the access road and waterline. While removing the lower dam a new berm is proposed to channel the Brook into its original course. Due to new standards, the dam will have to be made wider to withstand a 100 year flood, but no changes will be made to the spillway elevation. The primary benefit of this project is increased storage and infrastructural improvement to provide power for the water precinct. Burr told us that these dams were originally built to power the Gray's Inn elevator.

A motion was made to authorize the wetlands committee to sign the permit when it arrives.

Jackson Falls

Chris Lubicz-Nawrocki noted that on Sunday he and his wife saw 7-8 cars parked at the fire pond on Valley Cross. Rd and 6-8 more across the street in front of the tennis courts except that no one was playing tennis. Chris wondered if it is an indicator of things to come.

Some debate ensued over what is allowed for parking in the fire lot. The commission decided to ask the fire chief for greater clarification. A motion was made to spend money on increased signage advertising overflow parking lots for the falls.

The commission then reviewed a list of Jackson Falls parking recommendations, written by commission member Bill Terry, to submit to the selectmen for approval. A motion was made to approve the recommendations with some minor changes.

Respectfully submitted, Margaret Graciano