

Conservation Commission Minutes
DRAFT until APPROVED 6.4.2020
Minutes from listening to JacksonFlicks

Thank you to Hank Benesh, for the video recording of the zoom meeting:

<http://www.jacksonflicks.com/jackson/conservation-commission/2020-con-commission/con-commission-642020.html>

Roll Call: Jeff Sires, Ken Kimball, Tom Seidel, Chair, Brian Byrne, Vice Chair, Pam Smillie, and welcome, Ben Halcyon, new member.

Members of the public: Bob Santoro listened in. Hank Benesh filmed.

Will vote by name due to zoom meeting set up.

Election of officers:

Discussion of members' availability to assume officers' responsibilities.

Tom proposes: rotating chair responsibilities between Jeff and Ken with an end date to each "chairship" and sharing of some responsibilities with the other members. Will need to decide the rotation period.

Brian: if someone wanted to remain as chair, could that happen if they vote on it? Tom answers: informal understanding that if someone is willing and eager to be chair there's a vote each year. Ken recommends rotation by the year.

Jeff is interested in taking the first year and Ken will take the second.

Ken nominates Jeff as Chair, Brian as Vice Chair.

Also needed: a secretary that is a position with responsibilities beyond taking minutes, for example, letters to landowners and coordination with Susan Ross-Parent who is paid to take minutes. Pam volunteers to be secretary.

Ken nominates Pam as secretary, added to Jeff as Chair and Brian as Vice Chair.

Vote for this suite of officers:

Pam - aye

Ben - aye

Jeff - aye

Ken - aye

Brian - aye

Tom - aye

Nomination is approved, officers:

Jeff Sires, Chair

Brian Byrne, Vice Chair,

Pam Smillie, Secretary

Thanks to Tom for his work over the years as Chair.

Tom will continue to run this meeting.

Jackson Falls

Planning for the work session for sod and plantings: still need to get the process for getting money from the Wildcat Trust, specifically, for this year, to pay for new plants.

Pam has a volunteer with a Bobcat to move sod. Discussion of how to do this work while social distancing. Still fits the NH Governor's order: outside work, fewer than 10 people. Need to alert the town road agent that CC will need to park near Falls for the work session.

Noted: trash found in the week following Memorial weekend: TP, paper towels, clothing, "nasty." Also noted: less use allows more things to grow back.

Tom and Pam will email Julie to contact the Wildcat Trust or use other funds available. Pam has quotes and Brian will be meeting with other vendors. Brian will confirm the native plants included in the sod.

The work session will prepare for the 2 areas of native plant sod, peat, compost, fencing.

Tom proposes:

To request \$1850 for sod, peat, compost, fencing from either of 2 fund sources

Brian seconds

Jeff - aye

Ken - aye

Ben - abstains

Pam - aye

Motion carries. Tom and Pam will work on finding out the process for getting funds to pay.

Brian will work on getting wood chips.

Prospect Farm

The forester has been to Prospect Farm and contacted Tom on June 3. The forester plans to complete the forest survey by the end of June. Tom will speak with the forester unless someone else would like to - Ken will.

General management plan for Prospect Farm: Ken has looked over previous plans and reread the will that donated the land to the town. He reads that the family donated the land to the town for a recreation park, not a town forest for forestry income. So, the management plan in conjunction with the forestry management plan could encourage growth of larger trees for aesthetic appeal and real timber value over a long period of time instead of small trees cut every five years for a small profit as happened throughout the 1960s. The forestry plan should be subsidiary to the general management plan, not the driver, and the CC should communicate with the forester that the purpose of the forest management plan is for long-term management of the forest that is complementary to recreation that was the purpose of the donation. This land was not donated for the purpose to generate income as a town forest. Ken will continue on the draft of the general management plan.

Grey's Inn

Brian reports that the paths are mostly clear and that the ridge would be a good place for another trail.

Conservation Easement Monitoring

Tom will work with Pam to get the landowner letters out. A member is needed to monitor the property that Bill Terry did before leaving the CC. This is a property that gets a report submitted to SPNHF (Society for the Protection of NH Forests.)

Wetland

No new applications. Wetlands subcommittee: Tom, Jeff, Brian.

New Business

Welcome Ben!

Next meeting: possibly could meet outside? July 13, 2020, 5:30 PM. Work session to be announced based on sod and wood chip delivery and funding protocol.

Ken: motion to adjourn

Brian Seconds

Tom - aye

Pam - aye

Ben - aye

Jeff - aye

Submitted by

Susan Ross-Parent