

**Town of Jackson Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes - September 14th, 2020 - Regular Meeting**  
**- UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED**

**Call To Order:** Jeff Sires, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Attending were Members Jeff Sires, Pam Smillie, Thomas Seidel, Mike Dufilho, Ken Kimball, Ben Halcyon, and Selectman's Representative Dick Bennett. Member Brian Byrne was unable to attend. Public attendees included Beth Funicella, Barbara Theriault, Emily Benson, and Hank Benesh. Audio and video recorded via the Zoom platform will be made available on Jacksonflicks.com.

**Approval Of Minutes:** Minutes from the August 3rd meeting were reviewed. Ken motioned to approve the minutes, and Ben seconded. The motion was carried unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:** Public attendees did not express any public comments for non-agenda discussion.

**Recording:** Susan Ross-Parent informed Jeff she would be unable to continue to take minutes for the Conservation Commission. Will Reisig, who records minutes for the Jackson Planning Board and then Board of Selectmen, offered to record for the Commission in Susan's stead. Dick offered his recommendations from observing Will's work with the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen.

Jeff was unsure how the Commission compensated their recorder in the past and asked Dick for some insight. Dick commented that Gloria Hutchings might have some advice but that Jeff would make the decision as part of the budgeting for the Commission. Ken suggested, if the rate of pay was consistent between the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen, that the Commission offer that same rate. Will provided some information about his previous rates for consideration.

Jeff motioned to appoint Will as recorder for the Conservation Commission, at a rate to be determined after acquiring further information, and Ken seconded. The motion was carried unanimously, and Will was appointed as the Commission's recorder.

**Discussion on Jackson Falls:** Jeff received notice from several people who had concerns about the effects of the significant increase in activity at Jackson Falls. He was informed by Emily Benson about a volunteer committee formed to discuss and formulate suggestions to the Commission about issues surrounding Jackson Falls, including improvements to parking and preventing overuse.

Ken asked if the Jackson Falls committee was formed by or approved by the Board of Selectmen. Dick clarified that the Board asked for such a committee to be formed after receiving significant public comment about Jackson Falls but did not directly form the committee. Mike asked what role the Selectmen hoped the Commission would play in conjunction to the committee. Dick advised that the Commission consider the committee's suggestions and encouraged Members to stay informed about and/or attend the committee's meetings and discussions.

Jeff recognized Emily Benson, Barbara Theriault, and Beth Funicella to speak as representatives of the Jackson Falls committee, under Barbara's leadership and with the working name "the Save Jackson Falls Committee (SJFC)". Emily stated their desire to establish the SJFC as a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission with hopes to have one of the Commission Members attending in an advisory capacity. The committee had created a survey with hopes to poll the townsfolk. Their next steps would be to confirm membership with interested individuals, construct a timeline for distributing the survey, and hold public meetings to share information and compose suggestions to present to the Board of Selectmen. Barbara and Beth spoke on their motivations to join the committee and protect Jackson Falls and pleaded their case for the Commission to lend their support.

Jeff asked the Commission for their input and whether any Members would join the committee. After some discussion about potential legal challenges and the precise capacity of the SJFC, Pam spoke up and offered to join the committee as a representative of the Conservation Commission. Jeff also expressed interest in participating in some of the committee's meetings and staying involved in its discussions.

Jeff called on Mike to give an update on creating educational signage for Jackson Falls. On some recommendations, Mike reached out to MegaPrint to get quotes for designing and creating signs. He shared information on the sizes and materials suggested for use at Jackson Falls and related an overall positive experience with the company.

Jeff asked if a vote for the participants to join the SJFC would be necessary, but Dick said that it would not be necessary, since Jeff and Pam were volunteering to participate and not being appointed to the committee. Tom remarked that a vote might be necessary if the SJFC were an official subcommittee of the Conservation Commission, as at least one Member would need to be appointed to lead the committee. At this, Jeff asked if there would be any advantages or disadvantages to making the SJFC an official subcommittee. Members agreed that the committee should remain a voluntary organization until such time that the concept of a subcommittee presents a distinct advantage.

To close the discussion about signage, Mike stated his intent to return to MegaPrint and discuss further plans for creating signage for Jackson Falls. He encouraged the SJFC to make

suggestions about designs for the signage, as a final design had not yet been implemented. Jeff recognized Beth at this time, who asked for details about the sign's placement and purpose. Mike answered that a kiosk with a map would be placed near the primary parking spaces and would display designated routes toward the Falls to reduce the impact of foot traffic. The sign would also identify Jackson Falls as town property and display some general guidelines toward respectful use of the space around the Falls.

**Discussion on Prospect Farm:** Jeff verified that the costs for boundary line repainting and mowing were respectively approved by the Board of Selectmen. He spoke to Tim Nolan, who said he would have the boundary lines repainted by spring of 2021, if not in autumn of 2020. He also spoke to Rick Davis, who planned to do the mowing in late September of 2020.

Ken researched the requirement for the town to have a designated "stump dump" and found that there was no such requirement. There were some allowances and exemptions from permitting stump disposal, and disposing of a stump on-site was generally the preferred method. Ken asked Dick if he planned to contact the individuals who had been depositing stumps at Prospect Farm. Dick answered that he had spoken to some contractors but also that the site was not being used much recently for stump disposal.

Ken mentioned the General Management Plan for Prospect Farm being developed by the Conservation Commission, stating that the Commission would need to decide whether to propose the Plan as a set of professional recommendations or presented in a warrant article and voted upon as a legal document. He explained that the Commission could move to close Prospect Farm's "stump dump" with less push-back if it were included in the General Management Plan and subsequently put to town vote, but it would be handled separately if the Plan were used as a set of informal guidelines instead. The Commission decided to consider these two options for future meetings.

**Wildcat River Water Quality Project:** Mike gave a quick update on the Wildcat River water quality project. Although teachers in the area were not enthusiastic about taking on extra responsibilities, he remained hopeful that Jackson Grammar School might consider tasking students in the future with monitoring the water quality in Wildcat River.

**Grey's Inn:** Jeff mentioned that some fallen trees had been cleared to reopen nearby trails.

**Conservation Easements:** Jeff searched for town documents associated with easements. He pulled a few that would be useful to have for future reference. Julie would scan and distribute those documents.

**Wetlands:** There were no updates regarding wetlands, and no new letters had been received.

**New Business:** A letter was sent to both the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen from the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust regarding their recent projects, including the Dundee Community Forest. The Trust requested to meet with the Commission for an update in response to Congress passing the Great American Outdoors Act. Jeff agreed that a meeting would be helpful and stated his intent to send an invitation, along with the date and time of the Commission's next scheduled meeting.

Tom motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Pam seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Will Reisig