

Town of Jackson Conservation Commission
Minutes - December 7th, 2020 - Regular Meeting
- UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED

Call To Order: Jeff Sires, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Attending were Members Jeff Sires, Ken Kimball, Ben Halcyon, Mike Dufilho, Brian Byrne, Pam Smillie, and Selectman's Representative Dick Bennett. Member Tom Seidel was unable to attend. Public attendees included Barbara Theriault, Beth Funicella, Ruth-Ann Brown, Joyce Allan, 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 November 2nd meeting were reviewed. Mike corrected that Larry Garland's correct title is "cartographer", where the minutes had incorrectly named him as a "photographer". Ken motioned to approve the minutes, and Ben seconded. The motion was carried unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

Save Jackson Falls (SJF) Committee: Barbara Theriault, Chairman of the SJF committee, was recognized to comment. Barbara reported some feedback received from the committee's recent questionnaire. She highlighted responses to questions about parking from Road Agent Pat Kelley and Police Chief Chris Perley in 2018. These responses had stated that designating parking at the Falls would fall under the jurisdiction of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DoT) and that Jackson would have no control. However, citing a more recent discussion with representatives from the DoT, Barbara stated that DoT jurisdiction only extends 25 feet from the outermost lane border (designated by solid yellow lines). She explained that using parallel parking at the Falls would bring the parking spaces beyond the 25-foot reach and into town jurisdiction, though at the expense of losing several parking spaces. Barbara also stated that a DoT representative would help her to measure space at the corner of Carter Notch Road and Valley Cross Road, to determine if enough space existed there to create four to six parking spaces for Jackson resident vehicles.

Jackson Falls Signage: Larry Garland, cartographer with Appalachian Mountain Club, created some basic templates for maps of the Jackson Falls area. Mike presented the templates with the intention of supplying the preferred option to MegaPrint as reference when creating the desired signage. Members of the Commission agreed that a simple vector diagram would be best suited to the Commission's purposes.

Prospect Farm: Jeff distributed to the Members the final draft of the survey about the Prospect Farm General Management Plan. He asked that the Members bring any suggestions for changes to his attention within the next day. Brian asked if, in one survey question, the mention of “campfires” needed to be attached to mentions of “camping”. Jeff answered that the two did not need to be attached and stated his intent to separate the “camping” and “campfires” into two separate questions.

Dundee Forest Project: There were no updates to the matter at time of meeting. Jeff and Ken spoke with William Abbott, Executive Director of the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (USVLT), who informed them that he might have an update ready to present in January of 2021.

Wildcat River: There were no updates to this matter at time of meeting.

Gray’s Inn: There were no updates to this matter at time of meeting.

Conservation Easements: Jeff asked if any Members were having trouble compiling and/or submitting their reports. No issues were brought up.

Wetlands: There were no updates to this matter at time of meeting.

Annual Report: Jeff stated that he would have the annual report ready within the next two weeks and would distribute it to the Members of the Commission for consideration. The report was placed on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting on January 4th, 2021 to be approved and submitted to the town.

Other Business: Mike was approached by a resident who reported people taking balsam firs from the Jackson Falls area for landscaping purposes. The Commission agreed to keep watch for any further removal of flora from the area.

Brian noticed that closure notice signs had been posted on the upper reaches of Thorn Mountain Trail. Ken explained the closure was in reaction to blatant abuse of the trail.

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

Brian motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Mike seconded. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Will Reisig