

Town of Jackson  
Conservation Commission Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
August 2, 2021 - 6:00PM  
(Unofficial Until Approved)

Present: Jeff Sires, Chair; Ken Kimball, Pam Smillie, Mike Dufilho, Brian Byrne, Ben Halcyon, and Alternate Dick Bennett.

Chairman Sires called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the March, May, and July minutes were not available for review or approval.

**Prospect Farm:**

Ken Kimball provided a second draft of the General Management Plan for Prospect Farm, incorporating changes based on feedback from Members. He explained that the recommendation section includes both policies and regulations. Regulations would be similar to the rules, which would be established through town vote.

- **Forestry** - Should be changed from a policy to a regulation, making it a “secondary and subordinate purpose.” Ken Kimball said that forestry can be a very effective tool to help meet recreational needs.
- **Forestry Management Plan** - Should be added as a recommendation stating that a Prospect Farm Forestry Plan shall be updated approximately every two decades by a professional forester.
- **Stump Dump** - Ken Kimball proposed working with the Board of Selectmen to determine a better site for a stump dump. The current stump dump location has knotweed (an invasive species that could easily spread). If the stump dump were to be moved, this location could possibly be converted into a parking lot.
- **Signage** - Should remain a policy.
- **Motorized Vehicles, Biking and Parking** - Should become regulations. The recommendations generally follow Town ordinances regarding class VI roads.
  - Motorized Recreation Use would only allow class I e-bikes (pedal bike + hand-assist), and snowmobiles shall be prohibited.
  - Non-motorized biking would be permitted but limited to logging access and class VI trail systems.
  - Future trails development would try to focus on a multi-use system.

Brian Byrne asked about regulations and enforcement. Ken Kimball explained that the Plan will identify the rules, and the regulations would allow for enforcement if necessary.

- **Overnight Use and Camping** - Would follow the current ordinance.
- **Hunting** - Is a regulation and is permitted, following White Mountain National Forest policy.

- **Hiking, Walking, Snowshoeing and Pets** - Is allowed when the area is not groomed for skiing.
- **Cross Country Skiing** - Follows the five year agreement between the Town and Jackson Ski Touring Foundation.
- **Noise, Open Fires, Litter, and Fireworks** - Are regulations.

Dick Bennett suggested looking at the language to make sure the document *provides* recreation rather than *promotes* recreation.

The plan recommendations were reviewed, including two additions: adaptations to climate change, and controlling invasive species.

The next steps would be grammatical edits, to then be followed by the completion of the final draft, the presentation to the Selectmen, and then the scheduling of a public hearing so as to get approval at Town Meeting.

Chairman Sires mentioned the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust will be having a meeting to discuss the Dundee Community Forest Project on September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Whitney Center.

#### **Conservation Easements:**

Letters will be sent out to Conservation Easement property owners regarding monitoring requirements set by the Forest Society. The Commission will conduct the monitoring, but encourage owners to participate if they are interested.

#### **New Business:**

Former Chair, Phil Davies, has inquired as to why the salt and sand are not being stored in the designated highway department sheds. The salt and sand should be undercover.

Brian Byrnes has had a few people ask him about trail maintenance on Iron Mountain Road regarding the trail relocation. Chairman Sires said it is scheduled to start in late August, and the goal is to create a more sustainable trail. Signage has been added to help with parking, directing people to a lower lot.

#### **Jackson Falls:**

Chairman Sires said that the contractor he spoke with regarding the Kiosk said it can still be done this year, but it would most likely not be until October.

There will be a workday sometime in the Fall.

**Dick Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and all approved.**

Respectfully submitted by Erik Atwell

**To view the full video recording of this meeting visit [www.jacksonflicks.com/Jackson](http://www.jacksonflicks.com/Jackson)**

