

Town of Jackson
Conservation Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting
December 6, 2021 - 7:00PM
(Unofficial Until Approved)

Present: Jeff Sires, Chair; Ken Kimball, Pam Smillie, Mike Dufilho, Ben Halcyon, and Brian Byrnes.

Attendees: Videographer Hank Benesh.

Chairman Sires called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

May 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes - **Ken Kimball made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mike Dufilho. All approved.**

August 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes - **Jeff Sires made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Brian Byrnes. All approved.**

October 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes - **Brian Byrnes made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ken Kimball. All approved.**

November 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes - There was one correction. Under Conservation Easements, it should read, easement monitoring reports for Town conservation easements are due by the end of the year. **Mike Dufilho made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Ben Halcyon. All approved.**

Prospect Farm:

Ken Kimball incorporated final edits from the Commission into the General Stewardship Plan. The final draft is ready to be presented to the Selectmen at their next meeting. With Selectmen approval, this will be added to the Town Warrant to be voted on at Town Meeting.

Mike Dufilho did confirm that a sign for Hall's Ledge was missing and will need to be replaced. It can be addressed at the same time the kiosk is being updated.

Jackson Falls:

Chairman Sires is going to compile the invoices for the recent work done at the Falls. Ben Halcyon is going to get some pricing for alternative path surfaces for handicapped access. There will be a test area near the handicapped parking to determine best options. It was suggested that a more durable product may be better than seasonal options, and erosion will need to be taken into consideration when selecting a product. Ken Kimball did follow up with Chief Perley regarding the parking signage at the Falls. He confirmed that it was not a Police issue, but rather a Selectmen/Highway Department issue. The goal is to get signage that is more aesthetically pleasing and fits into the surroundings better.

Gray's Inn Community Garden:

Pam Smillie is going to meet with someone (on Wednesday at 4:00PM) who has offered to help with the community garden. They will walk the grounds behind the Town Office to determine spacing options for the garden. Fencing will need to be installed to keep animals out. Mike Dufilho said that he will speak to folks at the Library to let them know the possible plans for the garden. Pam said that she did mention the location to Selectmen DiFruscio, who didn't seem to have any issues, but the Commission will speak to the Selectmen and ask for formal approval of this location in addition to a

letter of support. Pam said that some decisions would have to be made if they were going to try to get a grant for this project. The Grant Deadline is January 15th, and the maximum amount is \$2,000.

Wildcat River:

Mike Dufilho submitted a mid-grant report today giving a short update for the Wild and Scenic Grant. The majority of the grant is complete. The school involvement is something that Mike and others hope will continue in the future, including a hut trip for the 5th and 6th graders.

Conservation Easements:

Chairman Sires wanted to acknowledge the passing of John Pepper. Tom Siedel mentioned that John did contribute to conservation in Jackson, particularly in the Brookside Farm Conservation Easement. Ann Bennett did have a few words: "John was fiercely loyal and devoted to his family, friends and community. Those connections were deep and wide, and he worked at sustaining them. Though over the decades together they were world travelers, Jackson was always home for John and Alice, and they supported its core institutions, the Jackson Church and Public Library among them. John's love of the outdoors was legendary, whether sailing, skiing -- Wildcat preferred -- later cross country, running or walking. He was a fixture on the five mile circuit later in life. Despite the aging process, John continued to take pleasure in the pursuits he was still able to enjoy. John lived life fully, and ultimately achieved what we all aspire to -- a life well lived."

The next steps for the Conservation Easements are monitoring and reporting.

Wetlands:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Mike Dufilho asked about Washington Boulder. It used to be on the Agenda, and he didn't know if that was still something that needed to be discussed. Pam Smillie said that not much is going on in that area now that the owners behind it cut everything down for their view. It is still Town owned, and it was decided that this area should still be monitored.

Chairman Sires will be working on the Town Report, and he will circulate that for review when he is done.

The next meeting will be held on January 3rd at 5:30PM and Zoom meeting links will be made available.

Chairman Sires moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Pam Smillie. All approved.

Respectfully submitted by Erik Atwell

To view the full video recording of this meeting visit www.jacksonflicks.com/Jackson