

Town of Jackson
Conservation Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 2, 2022 - 5:30PM
(Unofficial Until Approved)

Present: Ken Kimball, Pam Smillie, Ben Halcyon, Brian Byrne, Mike Dufilho, and Dick Bennett.

Attendees: Burr Phillips and Videographer Hank Benesh.

The meeting was called to order.

Burr Phillips, Valley Cross Road Bridge:

Burr explained that a wetlands permit needs to be approved, which includes a signed letter from the Commission in order to proceed with the replacement of the Valley Cross Road Bridge. He would like to answer any questions that the Commission has regarding the project. He reviewed the design details for the bridge. Dick Bennett questioned the trusses, and said that they were voted out at Town Meeting. Burr said that DOT later determined the historical value of the trusses, and so they will now remain on the bridge, but DOT will contribute to that cost. Burr said there is minimal impact to the wetlands. Ken Kimball inquired about the stone on the bridge. He said if there is any extra, they could use the stone for some steps. Ben asked if there was any impact to parking or restrooms during construction due to the materials needed to being stored on site. Chairman Halcyon said that if the materials could be placed further East on Valley Cross Road for storage and staging, it might be better. Burr said these comments could be passed along before construction. Ken said that a conversation with Jackson Ski Touring (JST) and the Jackson Fire Department might be needed, since JST owns the fire pond land, and the fire department has an easement to that land. He doesn't see an issue if that space was potentially used for the staging area. Chairman Halcyon also mentioned that the Commission has spent a lot of time working downstream on the abutment site, and would not want that area to be impacted. Burr suggested adding this into the letter. **Ken Kimball made a motion to send the letter with the caveats that Chairman Halcyon mentioned, including no storage on site so the footprint isn't impacted, and no disruption to the use of the Falls by visitors, seconded by Dick Bennett. All approved.**

Approval of Minutes:

April 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes

A correction/addition to the minutes is to thank Dudley Davis and Brian Byrne for their help at Prospect Farm with the orchard project, and to also correct the spelling of Brian's name, (it is spelled with an I not a Y). **Brian Byrne made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Mike Dufilho. All approved.**

Ken Kimball made a motion to confirm that Pam would still continue as the secretary and Brian would continue as the Vice Chair, seconded by Mike Dufilho. All approved.

Jackson Falls:

Path Material Approval

Chairman Halcyon contacted the company they have been working with, and they offered a municipal discount, so a test section may be something to consider. There was discussion on the location of the port-a-potty (lower lot or current location), and handicap accessibility. The consensus was the current location is more aesthetically appealing, and the kiosk will indicate the location of the port-a-potty. Dick mentioned that when the bridge is under construction, the company must supply their workers with their own port-a-potties, maybe one on each side of the bridge.

Ken suggested trying the material that Chairman Halcyon suggested. The other option would be crushed gravel. They would like to have the material be placed from the handicapped parking space to the port-a-potty, and also down to the picnic table. Further discussion continued on how to prep and plan for the material, and what would be placed above and below the material for the best anchoring.

Mike made a motion to authorize Chairman Halcyon to spend up to \$600 for material from RutGuard to harden the path at the Falls for better handicapped access, seconded by Pam. All approved.

Kiosks, Approve Location

The deposit has been received, and they are working on the Kiosk which should be installed by mid-May. The Commission discussed where they would like to create routes for visitors to access areas at the Falls, for example, they would like to limit walkways to the bench by fencing some of the paths that have been created. Ken would also like some steps placed in that area.

New Signs

Ken will speak to the sign maker who makes the signs for Jackson Ski Touring to see if they can be changed to look similar to the Ski Touring signs. They also questioned the number of signs needed for no parking. There are 16 signs now.

Brian was just following up to see if Eastern Green had a chance to fix the fence. Chairman Halcyon will follow up on that.

Prospect Farm:

Ken will speak to the Forest Service about moving the gate in order to convert the stump dump area into additional parking spaces for summer traffic. He will also speak to the Highway Department about help with the parking lot.

Dick wanted to make sure the orchard had been cleaned up before the grass grows, which would make cleaning much more difficult. Mike said that since the orchard pruning will be a multi year project, the Commission may want to set aside money to hire someone for future years. Dudley has been very generous volunteering to help with pruning, but he may not always be available. Other trimming, mowing, and maintenance will need to be addressed for the future.

Gray's Inn:

Brian said that there is a tree down on the mystery loop. Mike said that the school will be hiking the loop soon, but the tree should not be an issue. They can step over it.

Community Garden:

Pam discussed the meeting she had with some of those interested in participating with the garden. They decided on a phased plan and raised beds. There was a design presented with seven beds and a picnic table in the middle. The Commission may create a subcommittee to take care of the administration of the garden. Wood for the beds, the fence soil, and other supplies were also discussed. Pam is waiting for results of the soil test she submitted. Ken mentioned that the beds have to be spaced to allow for mowing. Dick said that woodchips may be best for the paths in the garden area. He also said that this shouldn't create more work for the Town. Chairman Halcyon reviewed Jeff Sires original timeline and said that the Selectmen should be updated on the garden planning. The \$2,000 grant money will be used toward supplies for the garden, and any additional expenses will come from the annual Conservation Commission Funds.

Review Proposed Rules - Pam will circulate them with the proposal. Chairman Halcyon would like to know who the coordinator will be for the garden. It will be a volunteer position. Pam indicated that the Selectmen would like the garden to be handled by the Commission.

Wildcat River:

Mike will look up how often the monitoring needs to take place. Brian asked about the manure pile, and Chairman Halcyon said that the letter had been sent and the pile has been cleaned, so it is no longer an issue.

Conservation Easements:

Nothing to report.

Wetlands:

Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application for NH Route 16-B Culvert

Ken said that he thinks the issues regarding this permit have been addressed, and there do not appear to be any more problems. Brian said that generally speaking, the Commission could slow the process of approving wetland permits if they had any issues or concerns.

New Business:

Subcommittees

Chairman Halcyon asked what subcommittees have been previously established. Mike said it would allow three committee members to meet and make decisions without having to wait a month to bring the issue to the full Commission. Mike said there are currently wetlands, Jackson Falls, Prospect Farm and Dundee Forest subcommittees. The Commission discussed what subcommittees needed to remain

in place. The wetlands subcommittee will remain, and if others are needed it will be decided as needed. A garden subcommittee may be needed until the garden is established. It was suggested that having rules and structure for the community garden will reduce the number of questions and potential problems that come to either Pam or the rest of the Commission.

Public Comment:

Chairman Halcyon wanted to mention that on Saturday May 14th, at 9am, the Eastside Walk Foundation is having a workday along the river walk.

Brian Byrne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ken Kimball. All approved.

Respectfully submitted by Erik Atwell

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