

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

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

Attendees: Videographer Hank Benesh

The meeting was called to order.

**Approval of Minutes:**

June 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes

**Brian Byrne made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dick Bennett. All approved.**

**Prospect Farm:**

There was discussion on how to manage dogs at Prospect Farm. If a dog is not able to remain under control, they should be leashed. Several members of the Commission have encountered dogs that have nipped or bitten them and they want to make sure that owners of dogs know that this is a serious issue. They would like to remind visitors with dogs that this is a multi-use area where dogs have to remain in control.

Management Plan Implementation

Ken will send a letter to the Forest Service in regards to moving the gate. He will also work on signage for Prospect Farm, which will include dog owner responsibilities. Ken will reach out to Lyons to start a conversation and see if he would ever consider selling a portion of his land (next to Prospect Farm) to the Town.

Dick Bennett said that the brush that was left behind should have been burned when the snow was still on the ground. It is now creating an issue for Rick Davis and the mowing that he does up there. Dick said he could try to remove the piles with his tractor that also has forks attached. Dick will follow up with Rick to discuss options.

Chairman Halcyon asked about funds available to start the soil survey which will begin the Prospect Farm plan implementation. Ken said that he will check, but he thinks funds through the Baker Trust are available. There was discussion on what types of surveys are already available and how extensive the survey would need to be. Ken thought that some costs could be absorbed by the biking community, to

determine wetland issues, if they were to pursue a biking trail system. There was a recap from the last meeting regarding the mountain biking trail request and how the process might move forward.

### **Jackson Falls:**

The kiosk and sign have been installed.

#### No Parking Signage

Chairman Halcyon is waiting to hear back from Chairman Campbell regarding the no parking signs and the resident signs at the Falls. Ken will get pricing once the number of signs needed has been decided. A bulk order would reduce the cost. Ken would like to speak to the Highway Department for input. Ken suggested a conventional sign for the handicapped sign, rather than a wood sign. Brian prefers wood signs rather than synthetic. There was discussion on how many signs are required. Dick suggested having a meeting at the Falls so that everyone could look at the signs that are currently there and then make a determination at that time. Chairman Halcyon will try to coordinate a time for everyone to meet there.

#### Picnic Table Donation

There was an offer made to donate a picnic table to the Conservation Commission to be used at the Falls. Ken will look into how to accept such a donation. The current bench is broken and should be removed.

Brian wanted to add that he thinks the kiosk should be braced. He thinks a heavy wind could weaken it.

### **Gray's Inn:**

Brian said that kids have been out using the trail, which is good. Chairman Halcyon was asking how the poison ivy was being handled by the Story Walk. Although goats were suggested as a good option, spraying was decided as the best solution at this time. Dick mentioned that there is a spray, for licensed applicators, specific to poison ivy.

#### Community Garden:

The garden is up and running. Six of the seven beds are occupied, and the fence is almost complete. Bob Santoro has offered to help run an underground irrigation system to the garden. Pam said that the Town has been great, especially Gary Allen, who has helped measure everything out in order to keep the necessary spacing for mowing. There were some ideas discussed for the Conservation Commission to participate with the Pumpkin People this Fall.

### **Wildcat River:**

Nothing to report.

### **Conservation Easements:**

Nothing to report.

**Wetlands:**

Brian wanted to know how things were left with the issue regarding the manure pile several months ago. The pile seems to be growing again. Chairman Halcyon said that there has been no follow up communication after the letter was sent. The pile had been moved, but it is now growing again. Brian said that people should be aware of the best practices for manure. Chairman Halcyon said that this issue falls under the State Department of Agriculture. The process is for the State to inspect and then allow time for the matter to be corrected. Chairman Halcyon will try to have a conversation with the manager of the stables to see if they are aware of the problem prior to notifying the State.

**New Business:**USVLT Strategic Conservation Plan:

Chairman Halcyon will forward both of the emails he received to the rest of the Commission for review and input. They are asking for scoring or ranking on certain issues. There is also a question regarding a wild and scenic river designation for the Saco River. Ken has already provided some feedback to the Land Trust. Ken also volunteered to provide the scoring response via email to the Land Trust.

Forestry Statutory Permit-by-Notification for Tax Map #R30, Lot #15A:

Chairman Halcyon received this notification for a property located on the back side of Dundee as an FYI. It was identified as the Dinsmore property. Some members of the Commission will drive by the location to look and make sure there are no concerns.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**Brian Byrne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dick Bennett. 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)**