

**Town of Jackson
Conservation Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting
August 1, 2022 - 5:30PM
(Unofficial Until Approved)**

Present: Pam Smillie, Ben Halcyon, Dick Bennett, Ken Kimball, Mike Dufilho and Tom Seidel

Attendees: Judy Tyler and Videographer Hank Benesh

The meeting was called to order.

Approval of Minutes:

July 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Ken Kimball made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dick Bennett. All approved.

Prospect Farm:

Chairman Halcyon did remove some of the brush piles, which should make mowing easier. Dick will meet with Rick to make sure the area is clear enough to mow. Ken will also reach out to Jackson Ski Touring in order to coordinate and make sure all areas that need cutting and mowing are addressed. Chairman Halcyon suggested a workday that would coincide with the Ski Touring workday. Ken said that Ellen has not scheduled it yet, but it will most likely be October or November.

Management Plan Implementation

Ken had a delay, but will be meeting with the Forest Service in the near future to discuss the gate.

Chairman Halcyon discussed knotweed and the stump dump, which led to questions for the best way to tackle the problem. Ken Kimball mentioned that although not popular, Roundup is an effective treatment for killing knotweed at the roots. Chairman Halcyon is waiting to hear back from Chairman Campbell about the possibility of transporting dried knotweed to the Transfer Station to be burned. Chairman Halcyon did confirm that once knotweed has dried out, it is no longer a threat for spreading. Ken said that before they tackle the knotweed, the projects at the Falls and Prospect Farm should be worked on. They agreed that this could be a project for next year.

Mike was asking how serious people are about the possibility of a bike trail at Prospect Farm. Chairman Halcyon said that a group would have to be formed, and they would have to come up with a plan for Selectmen approval as a starting point. Ken also pointed out that this topic is explained in the Management Plan that was approved by the Town in March. Dick said a plan for a mountain biking trail may even require town approval.

Gray's Inn:Community Garden:

The irrigation system has been installed, with help from Bob Santoro. Pam would like approval to reimburse Bob for his expenses and help. Pam thinks this should cost approximately \$700. Chairman Halcyon will bring in budget numbers so a final vote on expense can be taken once it is determined if money will be used from the operating budget or Money Market account.

Wildcat River:Black Mountain Stables

A draft letter was reviewed by the Commission regarding the manure pile. Chairman Halcyon will send the letter out this week, after he consults with DES. Mike said that he may have a few small changes and/or additions to the letter for further clarification before it is sent out.

Knotweed Plan

This was discussed under the Prospect Farm agenda item.

Conservation Easements:

Chairman Halcyon said that he just got a reminder notice that the annual conservation easement process will be starting soon. He said they usually send letters in September.

Wetlands:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Chairman Halcyon received an inquiry about cutting on the Betty Whitney Trail, but it turned out to be Black Mountain Meadows who was cutting. It was suggested that if they noticed any building or development, they could talk to the Planning Board.

Mike would like to educate the town on spongy moths (gypsy moths) and how to handle the growing population. Chairman Halcyon said this could be included in their winter projects.

Jackson Falls:No Parking Signage

Chairman Halcyon sent an email to Chief Perley regarding ticketing and enforcement. He said that Chief Perley asked that they have uniform signage. The Police are enforcing and ticketing at the Falls. Ken will talk to the sign maker for pricing once the number of signs has been determined.

Picnic Table Donation

Don Bilger would like to donate a picnic table, since the current table is falling apart. The Selectmen will need to approve this donation. There was discussion regarding previous conversations about the long term goal for the Falls. Some said picnic tables should be removed to eliminate potential trash issues, but others recall that the decision was to keep picnic tables. Some said there should be benches rather than picnic tables. Judy Tyler gave some history of the Falls, and thought that the Conservation Commission had previously decided that the picnic tables should be removed to eliminate traffic on the landscape and vegetation.

Dick Bennett made a motion to favor removing the picnic table that is in disrepair, seconded by Ken Kimball. Mike wants to go look at it before removal to determine if it should be replaced. Discussion was about removing this table as a safety concern, and it would have be determined at a later date if it should be replaced. All approved the removal.

Schedule Wood Chip Delivery and Work Day

This will be discussed at the next meeting when Brian is able to weigh in on the schedule for a workday.

Pam would like to ask the town not cut the ferns by the bridge and just cut the saplings, rather than cut them both.

Public Comment:

Judy Tyler added that it might be more effective to include "Tow Zone" on the no parking signs. People seem to pay attention to that more than a ticket and fine.

Dick Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting and meet at the Falls, seconded by Mike Dufilho. All approved.

Notes from Chairman Halcyon from the meeting at the Falls:

After adjourning meeting at the town office, Ben Halcyon, Ken Kimball, Mike Dufilho, Dick Bennett, Pam Smillie, Tom Seidel and Judy Tyler met at Jackson Falls. Confirmed we would need 16 signs and discussed possible wording. Also discussed removing the "no parking on pavement" sign and replacing it with "no parking" sign to avoid any confusion. Removed picnic table from lower area, discussed re-vegetation and erosion control possibilities at this location if table is permanently removed.

Respectfully submitted by Erik Atwell

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