

**Town of Jackson
Conservation Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting
November 7, 2022 - 5:30PM
(Unofficial Until Approved)**

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

Attendees: Hank Benesh and Barbara Theriault

The meeting was called to order.

Approval of Minutes:

October 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

There was one typo in the mowing and maintenance section, fifth line up from the bottom it says “the Commission will want to make trees”, but that should say “the Commission will want to mark trees”.

Ken Kimball made a motion to approve the minutes with the one change mentioned above, seconded by Brian Byrne. All approved.

Prospect Farm:

Discussion with Jim Innes, USFS Saco District Ranger, Regarding Moving Gate at Prospect Farm Parking Area to National Forest Boundary Line

Jim Innes was unable to come to the meeting, but Ken Kimball did meet with him. He showed him the parking lot and the gate. Jim said that the Forest Service would be happy to move the gate out to where the boundary line is. Jim also said that if the town tried to get any Forest Service money, it would be tied up in environmental assessment before they could move ahead. The recommendation is for the town to move ahead independently. This project was already voted in with the acceptance of the Management Plan, so the next step is to ask the Selectmen to task the Highway Department with the project of moving the stumps back, and reorganize the space so that it can be used as a parking lot. Ken Kimball said that he would be willing to attend a Selectmen’s Meeting to discuss.

Brian Byrne made a motion to authorize Ken Kimball to speak to the Selectmen about moving the gate and working with the highway department to clear the parking area, seconded by Mike Dufilho. All approved.

Thank You to Rick Davis for Mowing and Maintenance of Orchard and Hall’s Ledge Overlook

Chairman Halcyon spoke to Rick after he mowed Prospect Farm. He did a great job. Rick suggested a burn pile for future cutting which would eliminate some of the piles left from the orchard. There was discussion on the trimming needs. Ken Kimball said the minutes reflected that people were needed to help with this, but he said he thought that was overkill. He said that when you are up there, you can

clearly see what needs to be limbed. Ken said that he would like to redo the map at a later date, once the parking area has been completed.

Jackson Falls:

RutGuard and Wood Chip Test Area

Chairman Halcyon installed RutGuard in a small section by the port-a-potty shed. Chairman Halcyon doesn't know how well it will work using just the wood chips. He said that the wood chips are too compressible. Ken said that maybe the town could fill in the holes of the RutGuard with sand.

Schedule Additional Work Day to Spread Wood Chips on Pathways

It was suggested that rather than pick a day for the whole group to meet, members could go up individually to get some work done when their schedule allows.

Barbara Theriault came to the meeting with concerns about the port-a-potty being moved. She had seen this in minutes from a previous meeting. Barbara is also in support of having the signs state that the vehicle will be towed. Ken restated the previous discussions regarding the signage at the falls. Pam Smillie did reach out to the town engineers in Conway regarding parking and signs. The comment was that the sign should have tow zone included so as to be more effective. Brian is still not in favor of the sign having that verbiage. Mike said he did not have a strong opinion either way. There was continued discussion on what the signs should say and where they should be placed.

Ken made a motion to authorize the spending up to \$600 (for roughly the same size signs) for the Falls. The signs would be made by the Jackson Ski Touring sign maker. The motion was seconded by Mike Dufilho. All approved.

Gray's Inn:

Mike had two things to report:

- 1) The trails are still being used as a field trip location for Jackson Grammar School students.
- 2) There had been some interpretative signs back there, which are now degrading. Mike said he would be okay removing the signs (except for two small signs), and wanted everyone's opinion on that. No one seemed to have any issue with this plan.

Community Garden:

Nothing to report.

Wildcat River:

Mike addressed the question of monitoring the Wildcat River. The town and the foresters share the responsibility for monitoring, according to what Mike read in the management plan for the river. He was not able to find anything on how often the monitoring should be happening. It was general, and said to be determined by the town or foresters.

Conservation Easements:Submit Monitoring Reports to SPNHF Before Jan. 15, 2023

Members are working on the easements.

Wetlands:

A notice came in regarding a permit application for the Valley Cross Road Bridge.

New Business:Henney Historical Fund Grant

Chairman Halcyon said there was an email that came in regarding the Henney Historical Funds. He said he thought this grant was geared more toward housing. They have the application deadline twice a year. Ken said he thought that instead of chasing available money, they should wait until they have a need for something.

Public Comment:

Ken said the Facilities Committee is sending out their survey, and it will be due on December 1st. Ken thinks that every member should respond. The committee could add additional comments after they discuss it at their December meeting. Ken said that the members may want to talk about solar needs on the surveys. Chairman Halcyon said that the committee could also weigh in at the Town Meeting.

Brian Byrne made a motion 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