

**Town of Jackson
Conservation Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting - January 9, 2023 - 5:30PM
(Unofficial Until Approved)**

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

Attendees: Hank Benesh

The meeting was called to order.

Approval of Minutes:

December 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Halcyon noted an error in the December 5th Meeting Minutes. The November 7th Minutes were approved, not the October 7th Minutes. Pam Smillie also clarified that Linda Burns is the Parking Code Enforcement Officer, and there are 13 kids in the 5-6 class, not 11.

Ken Kimball made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Tom Seidel. All approved.

Prospect Farm:

Ken has asked Tom to look for some history regarding Prospect Farm. Mike did talk to the school, and they would be interested in having the 5-6 class plan another field trip to the orchard this year. Also, it was mentioned that people are walking in their winter boots in Prospect Farm, and this is not allowed. They can use snowshoes, but regular walking in boots is prohibited.

Jackson Falls:

Ken will draft a document (similar to what he did for Prospect Farm's Management Plan) to include a history and other pertinent information for the Falls. It was mentioned that a request should be made to the Town to see if they could plow the parking area at the Falls. People try to park there even in the winter. Pam wanted to revisit the discussion about planting from the last meeting. She believes that certain areas would benefit from planting rather than having woodchips. Mike wanted to know if there had already been discussion with the Road Agent regarding placement of the new signs, to make sure they could be avoided by the plows.

Gray's Inn:

Brian said there are some branches that have been blown down in this area. Jackson Ski Touring does groom that area periodically. It does get walked on regularly. The Story Walk contributes to the foot traffic. There was further discussion on walking trails and a trail system that would be separate from skiing and snowshoeing. Brian was asking about how Nestlenook trails connected with the Town's and the Ski Touring's trails.

Community Garden:

Pam said that there are a couple of new members. There is still one more person who needs to decide if they will renew, but other than that the spots are full. Pam got the soil test back. It was very high in calcium, very high in pH, very high potassium, and very low lead. This was from the ocean compost. They may add sand to prevent too much organic matter. Ken said that the type of soil will depend on what people would like to grow.

Wildcat River:

Nothing to report.

Conservation Easements:

Report Filing Deadline

Ken was asking about the Town owned easements. Tom said that all of the reports the Conservation Commission submits are for Town owned easements. There was further discussion on how the easements become Town owned.

Wetlands:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Ben asked if anyone had interest in participating in webinars put on through New Hampshire Conservation Commission, which Jackson is a member. If so, he will forward the emails pertaining to these webinars.

River Walk Pathway Resurfacing

Ben said the Jackson River Walk Foundation is going to get bids for resurfacing the walking path from the stone bridge to the fire pond so as to restore the River Walk to what it was before it got washed out. The material will be ADA accessible. The Town has a trail easement with the Snowflake. The Eastside Walk Foundation has a fund to maintain the trails and gardens there. They also maintain the benches. Ben provided some history on the River Walk, and said that there has been some overlap between the Foundation and the Conservation Commission.

Public Comment:

Ken said the Facilities Committee is meeting Tuesday night, and it is open to the public. They will go over the survey results.

Tom Seidel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brian Byrne. All approved.

Respectfully submitted by Erik Atwell

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