

**Town of Jackson
Conservation Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting - March 6, 2023 - 5:30PM
(Unofficial Until Approved)**

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

Attendees: Hank Benesh

The meeting was called to order.

Approval of Minutes:

February 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Prospect Farm:

Ken is going to have an extra sign made (at the same time the Jackson Falls signs are being made) for additional parking. This will point people to new parking due to the gate being moved and the stump dump closure. Tom mentioned that town signs used to be color coded to identify if it was for town or ski touring, and thought that keeping the colors consistent would be helpful. Ken will also follow up with the Selectmen after Town Meeting to ask that the stump dump area be cleaned in order to allow for parking, and the forest service will move the gate.

On March 9th, the school will take students to the orchard for more trimming. Mike joined the meeting late, but did have additional information on this field trip. Brian was unable to join, so the group will not do any cutting, but will instead observe the cutting that was done last year. Mike added that since there will be no cutting, there will be no mess this year.

Jackson Falls:

Ken agreed to write up a management plan for the Falls. He discussed an outline of the plan. There were several comments, questions and suggestions to be considered.

Pam asked if she could order some plants for the spring. Ben has a friend that is a gardener, and he will connect them to discuss best options for that area and all the foot traffic.

Pam will ask Frank DiFruscio if the Valley Cross Road Bridge is going to be replaced this year. That could impact what is done at the Falls this year.

Gray's Inn:

Nothing to report.

Community Garden:

The corner posts have come down, so Ben is going to try to come up with a different anchoring system

and avoid digging down due to the rocky soil.

Spring Work Day

Ben was asking if a work day for opening the garden was necessary. Pam has not yet determined that. She may ask for some help from the Highway Department for fence repairs.

Wildcat River:

Nothing to report.

Conservation Easements:

Nothing to report.

Wetlands:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Ben said that the Jackson Eastside Walk is moving forward with bids to resurface the walk. The goal is to work around Town events such as the Wild Quack Duck Race and the 4th of July. Ken said they may want to see when the Covered Bridge 10k might finish by the pond, so that might need to be considered.

HB 655 Governor's Proposed Licensure and Regulatory Reform

Ben discussed this proposed bill, which he received via email from Pam. There was discussion on why it is helpful for the groups that this committee deals with to be licensed. They rely on their knowledge and expertise.

Ken made a motion as a Board that we do put in a letter in opposition to removing licensing requirements for the elements that are relevant to this commission, seconded by Tom.

Ken suggested language for the letter. He said that we as a Conservation Commission periodically hire a professional forester, "When we hire one we have confidence in the licensing, and we feel that it is important to us because we do not always know who is qualified, and the licensing helps us. We believe the same to be true for wetlands and soils. We believe that removing that criteria of licensing is a step backwards". **All approved.**

Saco River Watershed Stream Crossings Assessment Project Meeting April 19, 2023

Ben said this meeting will be discussing culverts. If anyone is interested, he will send the information for the meeting.

Ken mentioned he saw in e-news that the Facilities Committee is going to form sub committees, one of which is to improve communications on trails in Jackson. Ken said that he will volunteer as a representative of the Conservation Committee. There was more discussion on sub committees and what the groups would be trying to do.

Public Comment:

Pam wanted to mention that her brother-in-law is now the wetlands specialist for the northern part of New Hampshire and this is through DES.

Pam Smillie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tom Seidel. All approved.

Respectfully submitted by Erik Atwell

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