

**Town of Jackson  
Conservation Commission Minutes  
Regular Meeting - April 3, 2023 - 5:30PM  
(Unofficial Until Approved)**

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

Attendees: Hank Benesh

The meeting was called to order.

**Nomination of Officers:**

**A motion was made to appoint Ben Halcyon as Chairman, Brian Byrne as Vice Chairman and Pam Smillie as Secretary, seconded by Mike Dufilho. All approved.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

March 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**Ken Kimball made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by Mike Dufilho. All approved.**

**Prospect Farm:**

Ken is on the next Selectmen's agenda to ask for some help from the Highway Department with the stump dump so the space can be used as a parking lot. He will also have the gate moved, but that will happen after the highway crew completes the work on the lot. Ben said there is left over material from the pathway project at the Falls that may be helpful with the parking lot.

Mike discussed the field trip that he went on with the kids from the Jackson Grammar School to the orchard at Prospect Farm. He mentioned that several of the signs in that area are either broken or missing, so that needs to be followed up on. Additionally, there is a sign in the shape of an arrow that may need to be replaced. There was discussion on what signs would be best for that area.

**Jackson Falls:**

Management Plan Draft

Ken said that the draft is going slowly. He said it will probably be a few months before there is a draft to review. Ben thought of a few items that may need to be included, such as the Wentworth boundaries. Ken said all the needs are now available online, so he can review those. Dick Bennett added more about the Wentworth boundaries.

Pam spoke to Selectman Chair DiFruscio, who said that the Bridge is supposed to be replaced this year. There was no timeframe given. There may not be a need to stabilize the kiosk.

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

Dick Bennett said that the Gray's Inn Garage will come up in the Capital Improvement Plan, so it will need to be decided if that building should come down or not.

### **Community Garden:**

Ben was wondering about a community composting facility for grass clippings and such. Ben said that he was thinking about this because of the river walk and grass clippings from the Snowflake. Knotweed was brought up as a potential issue with that, with clippings around the ball field. Mike said that it would be helpful if the field were mowed more often for sports, and this would produce more clippings. Going back to the topic of knotweed, Dick said he spoke to someone knowledgeable about it, who said he would be willing to have a seminar on knotweed and how best to handle it. Timing on a chemical application is critical. Several members of the Commission said they would be interested in hearing more, along with all the alternatives to chemical application.

Once the snow has melted, the broken fence can be addressed.

### **Wildcat River:**

Saco River Watershed Stream Crossings Assessment Project April 19, 2023 6-7:30PM, if interested in attending Zoom meeting please register at [gmcg.org](https://gmcg.org)

Ben said this meeting sounds interesting. He can send a link to anyone who is interested.

Ben is waiting to hear back from the DES coordinator on the volunteer river monitoring program/river assessment program for the Wildcat River. Volunteers take water samples, and they are sent in to the State where they are entered into the water quality database. Ben will report on that when he hears back.

### **Conservation Easements:**

Nothing to report.

### **Wetlands:**

Nothing to report.

### **New Business:**

Ben asked if a natural resource inventory or index existed. Tom said that they have used Upper Saco Valley's list. Ben said part of the statutory requirements for the Conservation Commission is to maintain an index of all natural areas in the Town. There was further discussion on what that index needs to include and what parts already exist. The conversation led into what policies or procedures could be set up to answer questions, address complaints and perform tasks, such as how the wetland permits are handled.

Ben said that he did send the letter out regarding the proposed licensure and regulatory reform issue that was discussed at the last meeting.

There was discussion on the trails that Ken included in his list of walking/hiking trails for the Facilities

Committee (and their sub committee for these trails in Jackson).

Pam wanted to bring up the topic of lights and your neighbors and how they should be positioned in order to not disturb your neighbors.

**Public Comment:**

**Dick Bennett 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](http://www.jacksonflicks.com/Jackson)**