

**Town of Jackson
Conservation Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting - May 1, 2023 - 5:30PM
(Unofficial Until Approved)**

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

Attendees: Hank Benesh

The meeting was called to order.

Approval of Minutes:

April 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes

There was one correction to the minutes:

Management Plan Draft ... Ken said all the needs are now available online... that should read all of the deeds are available online.

Brian made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as corrected, seconded by Mike. All approved.

Prospect Farm:

Parking Area

Ken met with the Selectmen and they said it was okay to work with Gary to convert the stump dump into a parking lot. Ken will follow up with the Forest Service to move the gate. There was discussion on where the gate should be moved to.

Ken also mentioned the signage plans that will be sent to the sign-maker for both the Falls and Prospect Farm parking.

Mike wanted to mention that when the parking area is cleared, attention needs to be paid to any knotweed that may be in the area.

Jackson Falls:

Ben went to the Falls and looked to see how much washout damage there was. He said there was not much damage to the woodchips.

Fern Test Plot

Pam got seven ferns to plant with fencing (or logs) to keep dogs out. She thinks it will work well. It was \$82.50 for the ferns and \$50 for the soil. Pam will submit receipts for approval and reimbursement. The ferns have already been purchased.

Ken made a motion to approve \$132.50 for the purchase, seconded by Dick Bennett. All approved.

Schedule Work Day

Ben said he likes the low key work days, rather than a hard schedule. He said there needs to be some work around the port-a-potty to make it more handicap accessible. There was discussion on what material would be best to use.

Ken said he is working on the stewardship plan for the Jackson Falls, and is trying to determine ownership for some of the land. He was hoping he could get some help or clarification from the Commission. He is going to be reviewing the deeds and the Town files. There was discussion on land ownership vs. easements.

Gray's Inn:

There were some trees blown down on the Mystery Loop. Brian said he would be interested in pursuing more trails in that area. Ken asked where the Town boundary was. Mike said it is a nice flat area for walking, which is not very common in Jackson.

Community Garden:

Fence Repair

Pam said that Gary and the Highway Department did a great job fixing the fence. Gary said that it was the weight of the snow that caused the damage. The Commission passed along thanks to Gary and the department.

Community Composting

Ben said the idea is very complicated. If grass clippings get dumped, there needs to be something to mix with it, such as straw. Brian weighed in on having people keep any food out of their composting for the garden. Ken said that grass clippings could also have pesticides. Ben said some of these issues need to be sorted out. Ben said it may involve working with the Transfer Station.

There was discussion on the process for spending money on the garden.

Ken made a motion to allow Pam, the Garden Coordinator, to spend up to the amount collected from the dues for the Community Garden plots without further approval from the Conservation Commission, for the sole purpose of the Community Garden, seconded by Brian. All approved.

Wildcat River:

Ben has still not heard back from the state regarding the voluntary monitoring program. Mike will see if he can reach someone at DES and follow up.

Conservation Easements:

Nothing to report.

Wetlands:

Wetlands Permit Application: Laskin R18 Lot 39

Ben and Brian will try to go look at this site in order to review.

New Business:River Walk Resurfacing

Things are moving forward on this project. The permit has just been submitted. The permit was more extensive than Ben originally thought. He said they should still be on track to get started in early June. The bridge is going to need a bit of work. There was discussion on how to rebuild it and who may be able to rebuild it.

Spongy Moth Egg Mass Identification and Removal

Mike said it might be a good idea to send something to e-news regarding the identification and removal of the Spongy Moth Egg with a link with more information.

Mike was at a youth ski touring meeting. They are looking for a letter to send to the State to get an exemption so they could drive the groomer a short distance. Mike said the Commission could write a letter of support stating that there doesn't appear to be any issue from a conservation standpoint. Mike said ski touring will draft a letter that they can review.

Mike made a motion for the Conservation Commission to write a letter of support for ski touring to use their groomer on Route 16, seconded by Brian. Ken abstained. All others approved.

Public Comment:

Dick said the Planning Board is working on the Capital Improvement Plan this year, and it will be looking at solar instillation in town. Dick is asking for any ideas and/or location ideas from the Commission. Ken provided some information on solar and financial incentives that are available.

Brian Byrne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dick Bennett. All approved.

Respectfully submitted by Erik Atwell

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