

**Town of Jackson
Conservation Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting - August 8, 2023 - 5:30PM
(Unofficial Until Approved)**

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

Attendees: Hank Benesh

The meeting was called to order.

Approval of Minutes:

July 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Ken made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written, seconded by Brian. All approved.

Prospect Farm:

Ken sent an email to Jim Ines from the Forest Service regarding moving the gate. He is waiting to hear back. Ben expressed a few concerns about where the gate might be placed. Jim should be able to provide some guidance on the best location.

Jackson Falls:

No Parking Sign Post Material

Brian heard back from Gary who gave him the figure of \$2,500-\$2,800 to get the signs posted. This cost is just for labor, but includes rented equipment. Brian said cedar posts would cost \$800.

\$2,500 has already been approved (at the last meeting).

Brian made a motion to proceed with the bid price of \$2,500 budget and have Eastern Greens do the work, seconded by Ken. All approved.

Ken made a motion to revise the previous motion for the post price of \$250-\$300 to the new price of up to \$900 based on the bid quotes, seconded by Brian. All approved.

Trash

Ben wanted it to be known that there are no Town employees dedicated to picking up trash at the Falls. It is carry in and carry out. If there's any trash left behind, it is being picked up by volunteers. Ben said that if people feel that they have time to call the Town Office to complain, they have time to pick up the trash and bring it to the Transfer Station. There was further discussion on possible signage for carry in / carry out. The discussion also mentioned that if you see trash, pick it up, even if it is not your trash.

Pam asked if anyone would be interested in more planting at the Falls. She said the ferns did okay. There was further discussion. Pam will draft a proposal, but Ben thinks the woodchip pile needs to be addressed first.

Gray's Inn:

Nothing to report.

Community Garden:

Pam said the garden is doing well. There is a leak in the irrigation system, but there has been so much rain it has not been a problem.

Wildcat River:NH Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) 2024 Timeline

Ben spoke to Ryan Leo, the program coordinator for the state. He learned that the state supplies the tests and equipment. The program runs from May through September once a month, so Jackson can participate next year. The last time they had data from the town was 2006. They suggest two people take samples from several sites. Three to four locations would be a lot of sampling for two people. Ben wonders if they should ask for more volunteers. The suggested locations were discussed in addition to how the program will look and work. Some samples might need to go to Concord in a timely manner, so that would have to be sorted out. The discussion continued about water and bacteria sampling. The Conservation Commission will determine a cost for testing and ask for additional money from the town during the budgeting season. A testing plan should be established for next March.

Conservation Easements:

September is the month that the Commission typically sends out monitoring letters.

Ken wanted to acknowledge that the Dundee project is now complete and Upper Saco Land Trust now owns it. He said no action is needed right now, but the Conservation Commission should be prepared to participate in future discussions about the land use if necessary.

Wetlands:NHDES Proposed Wetlands Rules Change Summary

One change that may affect the Commission is they will need to obtain permission from the land owner to do site visits. Ben is not sure if this rule is in place yet.

Ben reviewed other wetlands permits that came in since the agenda was sent out. There was detailed discussion that followed. The Commission was trying to determine if they needed to raise an issue on one of the permits. The Commission will send an email to express their concerns on the permit that has requested expedited approval. There is an abutters well along with the Wildcat River that could pose a problem.

New Business:

Ben spoke to the property owner on Ridge Road regarding the violation notice. The owner is working to come into compliance with the state, so no action is needed from the Commission.

Ben said the Commission should try to plan ahead for possible grant opportunities, rather than find one

that is due right at that moment where there is no time to prepare for submission.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Ken made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Pam. All approved.

Respectfully submitted by Erik Atwell

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