

Conservation Commission Minutes

April 3, 2017

5:30 PM, Town Office

**DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED**

**Present:** Tom Seidel, Dave Matesky, Mark Ross-Parent, Pam Smillie, Mike Dufilho

**Members of Community:** Bill Terry

Hank Benesh filmed, Susan Ross-Parent took notes

**Review Minutes** (March 6) - Motion to approve - seconded - approved as written

**Public Comment** - none

**Not on agenda:** Tom: we need to renew terms: get paperwork in

**Prospect Farm**

Interpretive Signs: continue editing to send out for proofs - compiled proofs and will send out final draft and get digital proofs from Minuteman for summer to deploy.

Wooden trail signs finished. Awaiting snow melt.

Schedule Sign installation - Work session - divide and conquer, drills, screws, stakes, on trees, on consolidated posts at junctions.

Master plan - after the spring, a committee to get our plan down in writing: Mark, Brian, Margaret.

**Jackson Falls**

Fencing – Bidder update – still waiting for snowmelt? Still waiting. Our request was approved by the town with a placeholder of \$10k with actual bill submitted upon completion. From audience: set of “approved vendors?”

Answer: Rotten Rock, Eastern Green, and TDK Fencing. One vendor seems more interested, has gotten back with us consistently. Will contact them once the snow melts - left open. Will start calls now for bids with cutoff date by next meeting May 1.

Set rough work session schedule (seedlings, more chips, etc.) Won't know when seedlings will be in but will schedule work session soon after their arrival. Wood chips? Want chips and loam.

Master plan for the Falls: aerial photo that we label. “Manage it for heavy recreation.” The Alice Pepper map is still here in the files.

**Gray's Inn**

Schedule Sign installation.

**From last meeting:**

Backcountry skiing group trying to bring legal trails to avoid future closure.

Backcountry Alliance: CC needs to learn more and stay up to date on what's going on in areas that could have an impact on land CC is responsible for.

Renewable energy didn't pass at town meeting. Not enough info out there for town to vote yes. No CC or anyone there to speak for it. Seemed no one understood, thought non renewable energy homeowners would have higher taxes while others went down, and other misunderstandings.

Lori Gabriel got the petition together (she has one of the CC easements.) Will need more info and education on the web site or on the wall in town office – local seminars available.

Signs: will want to be sure placement of signs in view area below Halls Ledge reflects what's in the description as it's a big view and lots can be described, from Wildcat Valley to

confluence of Ellis and Wildcat to Saco Valley –all correct depending on placement of sign and wording.

Seedling were ordered.

Grey dogwood, red dogwood, hazelnut, sumac

**Future discussion:**

Revisiting an inventory of properties and discussing with land owners the possibility of putting their land in easement: as advocates, using map compiled by USVLT and coordinating with them. Informing the town that CC is interested in protecting more land in town and asking the townspeople which areas do they love and want to save. Working with students. For example, Hazleton pasture is logged. Is this an area people love?

Tom took pictures of snow banks at Falls to show Pat Kelley and contractor once hired to show where to place fence posts in reference to snow banks

Class 6 road Carter Notch to Prospect Farm: not maintained from B&B to summer parking lot. But road hasn't been maintained by logging companies and the town is prevented from doing routine maintenance on Class 6 road. So Pat asked CC to be advocates for this section of road when there is another session of logging. Future logging should be in Master Plan as a tool to support recreation at Prospect.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, adjourned. Next meeting: May 1.

As always, the public is encouraged to attend and share their vision for the use of Jackson town properties and other conservation priorities. Our meetings are typically at 5:30 PM at the town office building on the first Monday of each month.