

## **Fitzwilliam Conservation Commission**

18 May 2015– Minutes

### **Present:**

Members: Hiel Lindquist, Rick Brackett, Dorothy Zug, Barbara Green (acting chair), Cheryl Norskey

**Absent:** Paul Kotila, Mandy Exel

**Guests:** Stephanie Scherr, Ben Kilanski

### **Review of Minutes 20 April 2015:**

Tabled until next month.

### **Agenda Review:**

Stephanie Scherr & Ben Kilanski—Pipeline update and questions:

Kilanski of Winchester asked if the Fitzwilliam Cons Com maintains and manages any conservation land on the proposed route. We do not but the Town does. Kilanski has sent a registered letter of access denial but has not heard back. Also – the Winchester group is working on an endangered species list and asking people to pinpoint where they are. Fitzwilliam has subcommittees working on that.

Green added that our Cons Com has a Natural Resources Inventory.

Kilanski asked if our commission has any effect on the pipeline. Members replied that our Selectmen have been working with us on a Primary Wetlands designation but it hasn't moved forward yet. It may take 2 years but could give us much info on species and habitat and has the potential to give us valid data to build a case. The NHF&G Wildlife Action plan has a list of rare and threatened species and exemplary natural communities like Rhododendron State Park. Records are public but locations of rare species aren't disclosed in order to protect them.

Scherr asked about the status of the Gasseau property. It is under selectmen's jurisdiction, not the Cons Com. The Town received it in 1994. It has deed restrictions but no easement. It is not a town forest.

Scherr asked if it would be more advantageous for the Cons Com to manage it. Brackett replied that the donor's intent may have been conservation but it is not managed by the Commission.

Scherr said that pipeline surveyors may be working on town land. Where are the boundaries? Does our species inventory have all of the town maps?

Brackett said that Rte. 119 and Scott Pond are boundaries. A brook goes through there. The property is almost entirely water.

Scherr--If the proposed pipeline goes through Rhododendron State Park, how many acres are in Fitzwilliam? Lindquist and Brackett replied that Eversource owns the ROW. Ingeborg Seaboyer of the NH Division of Forest & Land oversees forest management of the park.

Scherr asked if we are doing anything regarding scoping. They want groups in every town gathering information for when the applicants come to each town to discuss the proposal with FERC.

Kilansky explained that this step would be an extremely detailed outline of why we don't want them going through certain spots. It's also useful to describe local features that can't be seen from the air. The more info we can provide, the higher level of mitigation will be required. Private landowners can write scoping documents.

Scherr asked what protection do we have for wetlands? Can we document vernal pools, etc.?

Brackett replied that all wetlands are regulated by the state, but not protected. There is an aquatic mitigation fund. We have a 75-foot overlay protection zone.

Scherr asked if the Commission would be willing to help Fitzwilliam residents identify vernal pools.

Kilansky has spoken to the Army Corps of Engineers. Do we have anything under them?

Brackett said that the Prime Wetlands designation has value to the Army Corps. All of our great ponds are dammed. All dams are under DES, which has a dam department.

The Commission advised Scherr that a special use permit may be needed for a banner event planned for Mt. Monadnock.

### **Metzger TF Stewardship Plan:**

Members discussed the Management plan. If we are going to pay them, it needs to be the forest management plan we want. Should we hire someone else to modify it? A new forester may not be willing to build off an existing plan by someone else. We need to have a special meeting to talk about getting the plan modified to include the recreational aspects we requested. The meeting must be sometime after the first week in June.

Sable will ask Kotila what he thinks we should do and what happened to the letter he was going to write.

Brackett will also ask Steve Roberge how to mediate and go forward and will send him the RFP and final document that we received.

### **WGTF:**

Mandy Exel and family worked on the trail cleanup.

Brackett informed Animal Control Officer Warren Hall about the dead cat found on the trail. Brackett has black and white photocopies of the trail maps. Recent changes to the maps will be made on the Internet version. Members agreed to leave the trail log in place for other hikers to see.

### **Prime Wetlands Project Status:**

Sable will ask Kotila about the RFP he was working on.

### **Open Space Committee – Updates:**

None reported.

### **Site Walk Reports:**

None

### **Budget Reports:**

None

**Planning Board:**

No news reported

**Other Business:**

Brackett will follow up on the DES complaint issue (see under Correspondence)  
Lindquist attended the Water Resources workshop which addressed storm water runoff problems, and the Fish&Game Dept. Wildlife Action workshop. Four groups are working on the latter to provide input on broad issues but funding is a problem.

**Correspondence:**

Memo, Debbie Favreau-- request for content for new Town website. Cons Com members expressed that they would like it to include the Natural Resource Inventory, Open Space Plan, Groundwater Protection Plan, meeting agendas and minutes, trail maps, and perhaps the Forest Mangement plan and Ten-Year Conservation Plan. Some data may be taken from the old website. Brackett can send the Open Space Plan and Coni could send the trail map. We could perhaps also include the annual report from Laurel Lake. Zug (who left early) may have the NRI in electronic format.

Also received: Northeast Wilderness Trust donation request; DES complaint report, Templeton Turnpike: possible dredging violation and animal waste storage impacting Priest Brook. (A copy was emailed to all members on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.)

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Next meeting: June 15, 2015

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Sable, Secretary