

Fitzwilliam Conservation Commission
17 April 2017– Minutes, draft

Present: Paul Kotila, Chair; Kevin Woolley, alternate; Hiel Lindquist, Cheryl Norskey, Rick Brackett, Barbara Green

Absent: Dorothy Zug

Guests: None

Review Minutes of 20 March 2017:

Approved as amended.

Agenda Review:

Brackett — Campbell property, under Chamberlain updates

Dog Waste Cleanup Bags:

Lindquist will try to install the station soon.

Another could be added for the Chamberlain property at a later time.

Chamberlain Property—Update:

Brackett reported that the project is “in the lawyers’ offices”.

Also, the Monadnock Conservancy has been offered a donation of the Campbell property at the corner of rte.119 and Scott Pond Rd. The owner suggested it be given to the Conservancy to be sold as a fundraiser, but it has insufficient acreage to be a house lot. The land is boggy. Members discussed whether it would be worth acquiring. Its main value would be to abutters. Other possibilities discussed were overflow parking for Scott Pond, educational opportunities for the school, etc. It is also near the town-owned Gasseau property. Would it need a town vote if no money is involved? The Commission will explore the options.

Metzger TF Stewardship Plan:

Kotila is “still chasing” Mike Powers. He had the description of the plan changed to reflect the order of our goals.

Lindquist talked to the Forest Society about Bay State Forestry. They said they were happy with them.

We need to look at two different things, a trail company and a forester.

Lindquist said we could meet with the county forester. Woolley also contacted Conscomm people from Chesterfield and Rindge.

There was a discussion on how to go about an RFP. Brackett has walked the KMTF with Swift Corwin, who gave some comments and had a map. Brackett also spoke with Lou Shelley, who was interested in being in the loop.

We could do the forestry work and adapt the trails to it, or start with the trails. Brackett felt that the trail plan should be first and Kotila agreed. Brackett will reach out to Shelley, try to get him to look at the site some late afternoon or weekend, and get back to us.

Members also discussed whether the log landing should be located by the road or interior. It could be bouldered off after the project is done, if interior.

There were no takers on the skidder bridge workshop.

Solar Array Proposal:

Nothing new. Selectmen's minutes didn't elaborate.

Monadnock Advisory Committee Update:

Lindquist reported there were general updates. Also, the 10-year plan is being updated. There will be a May 3 meeting at the Jaffrey Civic Center.

He also sent a note to fellow committee member Robin Haynes Blaise — they need to decide something about the dam at Pool Pond — put in a beach and visitors' center? Where to locate a bathhouse and parking.

Also — at Rhododendron State Park, they need to do something about the Patch Cottage, which has broken windows, etc.

Lindquist wants a study done on the carrying capacity of Mt. Monadnock, which was on the 10 year plan. They redid the pavilion, etc., but don't have enough money.

Site Walk Reports:

None. Sable will return the Young building permit application to Debbie, as the applicants did not schedule a site visit.

Budget Reports:

Payroll YTD \$194.67

Update on Wenniger Property:

This is on the back burner until other issues are resolved.

Planning Board:

Nothing new.

Other Business:

Saving Special Places was good —well presented and well attended, said Brackett.

Woolley went to a wetlands workshop in Keene. The Town Clerk is supposed to get wetland permits. There should be four copies and we should get one. We have to catch them in time (in order to give input.) We can't make copies of copies of permits. Members suggested that Sable go to the Town Clerk once a week to ask Heidi if there are any wetlands permits. Sable agreed to check once a week when she picks up the mail.

The workshop also covered delineations, hydric soils, etc.

Green brought up an idea to invite people from other pond and lake associations to presentations offered by the Laurel Lake Association. The Vice President of the NH Lakes Association will be speaking at the LLA annual meeting at White's Field in July about updates to the Shoreline Protection Act. We could notify other groups or associations in Fitzwilliam, and perhaps in neighboring towns.

Kotila felt it was a good idea.

Members reported recent wildlife sightings including an otter, many turkeys and ravens, and a cow moose.

Correspondence:

Connecticut River Conservancy announcement; DES Drinking Water newsletter

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. Next meeting will be May 15th, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Sable, Secretary

DR