

**Fitzwilliam Conservation Commission**  
**15 August 2016 – Minutes**

**Present:**

Members: Paul Kotila, chair; Dorothy Zug, Hiel Lindquist, Barbara Green, Kevin Woolley—alternate, Rick Brackett

**Absent:** Cheryl Norskey

**Guests:** None

**Review Minutes of 18 July 2016**

Approved as amended.

**Agenda Review:**

Zug — Report on Tolton property, more on Complete Streets

**Dog Waste Cleanup Bags:**

Members discussed recent objections regarding the proposed location of the dog waste cleanup station near Rockwood pond. An email to Zug from Mark Irvings from the Society for the Protection of Rockwood Pond (sic) indicated that the group wishes to focus instead on the goose problem.

Cons Com members decided to go back to the original plan to locate the station in the Collins Pond Rd./Templeton Turnpike area. We will send a response to Irvings and try to provide information to help with their goose problem. Laurel Lake covered the topic with a speaker at a recent meeting.

Brackett suggested we also refer the group to the Thorndike Pond Association in Jaffrey, who have been working with the Fish & Game Dept. on a similar problem. He said they have gone through a procedure of fencing off viable nesting sites such as lawns and green spaces to keep geese out because once they land and raise young, they molt and must stay in one place until their feathers grow back. The geese also compete with loons. Changing the protected status of a migratory bird would take a national effort. Simpler solutions include motion-activated sprinklers, noise makers, fake predators, etc. Everyone must be onboard for such a plan to succeed. The birds' food supply is grass and green plants. The same problem was addressed by the College by hiring someone to walk a dog.

Kotila will respond to Irvings and send it to the Cons Com members. He will also put something in the newsletter regarding the change of plans for locating the dog waste station. We will consider ordering an additional sign for the station. Brackett and Lindquist will install the station and Lindquist will empty the receptacle.

**Chamberlain Property—Update:**

Kotila sent Anne McBride of the Monadnock Conservancy a draft of the last two grant proposals. The final documents will be sent out on our official Town stationery. The Conservancy's board approved proceeding with the project, including funding. We are committed to paying up to \$6,000.

**Wetlands Survey Update—Rick:**

No info.

**Metzger TF Stewardship Plan Changes:**

Kotila looked for corrections and found all the comments we had agreed to, incorporated into the final document. He will respond to Mike Powers in about a week in order to allow more time for members to review the document.

**Solar Array Proposal:**

No news.

**Open Space Committee Updates -- Dorothy:**

Zug said the committee would like to put a final article in the October newsletter and asked advice on formatting. She would like to see double spacing. The editor said she will see what she can do. Updated information for the article regarding Current Use shows 304 owners with 427 properties in c.u., totaling 14,411 acres. Members agreed to have the article in the Oct. newsletter and made minor suggestions, including that it specify our monthly meeting date. The Open Space subcommittee will then terminate its work.

Zug also displayed maps and updated members on the Tolton property. It is 14.65 acres with perhaps enough frontage for 2 lots. It abuts the town forest, and has a small out-building. There is a ROW across the top portion and it is not too far from the WGTF. There's a stonewall along the northern edge. Zug was encouraged to keep the conversation going.

**Monadnock Advisory Committee Update:**

No news.

**Site Walk Reports:**

None.

**Budget Reports:**

\$334.93 expended for dog cleanup station.

**Planning Board:**

Reports are online.

**Other Business:**

Lindquist reminded the Commission to keep in mind that the Gap Mt. Lions Club is donating benches and may also be able to provide us with signs.

Complete Streets — Selectmen had told Zug to talk to other groups about this, which she did. She explained the idea that roads were built for cars, etc, but are now needed for bikes, walking, etc. SWRP has worked with Troy, Swanzey, and other towns. It would provide a policy and set a plan in place. Certain streets would be selected. Gene Cuomo is in favor of this. It would be funded by Cheshire Medical, as part of the Healthy Communities initiative. She gave handouts and requested feedback.

Members noted that a previous sidewalk proposal was not popular. Zug said this would be different and they could widen the designated road(s) 3 feet and stripe it. Gene, Suzanne Gray, and others would be on the committee. Zug will proceed with this idea.

Brackett announced a Widow Gage Hike for Sat., Oct. 15th, cosponsored by the Harris Center and Monadnock Conservancy. Swift Corwin suggested it. We could discuss it at our September meeting, perhaps plan a cleanup day and put a blurb in the Newsletter.

The Cons Com would like to co-sponsor this.

Zug suggested getting little signs with members' names for display at Cons Com meetings. Members decided it was not needed due to infrequent visitors and the roundtable meeting format.

**Correspondence:**

Updated pages of land use info from Sandra, with a note that she does not know who has our copy of the Fitzwilliam Code Book .

Save the Date notice, NH SFI - SIC, Sept 23, "Small Woodlot Management and Sawmilling Under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative."

NHTOA —NH Timber Harvesting Law registration form for Aug. 23.

DES Notice of Acceptance for Wetlands Permit , 25 Rantilla Lane. [Secretary's note— this was stamped as Received on July 28, 2016, but states the deadline for the Cons Com to intervene was 7/12/16 — JS]

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Next meeting—Sept. 19, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Sable, Secretary