

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
June 12, 2013**

The June meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:30 p.m. at the Whitaker Homesite in North Conway, NH. Members present were: Rob Adair, Carol Lyman, David Weathers, Larry Huemmler, Linda Kearney, and Alternate, Matt Coughlan. Also present was Forester, Don Johnson.

The Chair appointed Mr. Coughlan a full voting member.

1. Approval of Minutes 5/8/13: Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Ms. Kearney, that the Minutes of the May 8th meeting be accepted as circulated. Motion carried with 5 votes in the affirmative and one abstention (Coughlan).

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports: Mr. Johnson reported that he and Steve Danielovich have been working on a stone ford proposed for Hurricane Mt. Road landing; however they have met with some resistance from DES. It was explained that in the past they would have been able to build a ford as a temporary crossing had it been 10', noting it is 10' wide, however, DES has narrowed it to 8' so a simple notification will not work – they also could not do a minor expedite. Mr. Johnson stated it would be a lot of extra work and expense to get it through as a minor impact. He explained the way the brook bankings are situated, the high water mark is where DES has jurisdiction to. He stated they will easily use up the whole \$1500 budget in design, etc., and the DES will not budge.

Mr. Weathers questioned if it is not in the stream or the floodway how the jurisdiction of the wetlands is affected - why not just put in some abutments and a bridge? Mr. Johnson stated bridges do not last very long so he is not in favor of doing that. Mr. Weathers suggested some steel I-beams. Mr. Johnson suggested they still might be able to call it a temporary crossing, but it would have been nice not to have had to build that structure. Mr. Weathers pointed out they can build a bridge if it is outside of the floodway. Mr. Johnson suggested having a little drop, but to not touch anything in there and, if you absolutely had to get an all-terrain vehicle in there, you could. He said if necessary they could get some portable bridge panels in; if they can get some panels in there they can get the excavator across – it is about 150' from the road, this side of it is the TNC line. Mr. Johnson pointed out that he has not been able to get to any of the other projects as a result of this.

4. Other Business:

Mr. Adair announced a gift of land on G Street off Pequawket Drive has been offered to the town, Map 278, Lot 16. Mr. Weathers noted the town owns lots on three sides of it, it is a buildable lot, particularly once they put in the town sewer. He stated the town has been accepting these on the pond side, and as they become buildable can be auctioned off.

Motion made by Mr. Huemmler, second by Ms. Kearney, to accept the gift of land designated as Map 278, Lot 16. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

NHDOT Mitigation Lands – Mr. Adair had attended the Selectmen’s meeting at which this was addressed and reported the maintenance agreement between the town and NEMBA was approved. He noted Mr. Sires has submitted a grant application to the Gibson-Woodbury Foundation for \$5,000 to pay for gates, signs and bog bridge materials. It is planned to put in interpretative signs around the quarry and directional trail signs. Mr. Adair reported NEMBA is looking to do a couple of minor reroutes, maintenance work, and bog bridges.

He explained it is the land from Pudding Pond south, to and including Redstone Quarry. The Conservation Commission is now managing that for the State. He said NEMBA has offered to map existing trails in there, and recommend trails that should remain and those that should be closed off. Mr. Weathers stated a good portion of the \$5,000 grant will be used for gates; it is an effort to eliminate 4-wheelers from going in there. Mr. Adair noted as regards trail work, NEMBA has reroutes they want to do and some bog bridges. Mr. Weathers questioned distance of rerouting. Mr. Adair estimated 200’. Mr. Huemmler suggested getting together with NEMBA and doing a site walk and then “giving our blessing.” Mr. Coughlan felt they know the trails pretty well and know what needs to get done, noting if building more than a couple of hundred feet of rerouted trail, it should require approval. Mr. Adair summed up that the consensus is it is O.K. for NEMBA to proceed with minor reroutes and bog bridges; however, new trails will require review and approval. Agreed. Mr. Coughlan suggested any construction more than just a bog bridge should have CCC oversight. Mr. Adair reported NEMBA has been mapping it in an effort to come up with a plan and hopes to have it nailed down by this fall.

b. Selectmen’s Report – Mr. Weathers reported there will be a meeting with Nature Conservancy on June 26 at the Conway Town Hall. Mr. Adair is planning to attend.

Mr. Weathers said the town received notice on behalf of Conway Village Cemetery Assn. who has hired an engineering firm for two culvert locations on Washington Street, replacing two existing corrugated metal pipes.

Mr. Weathers said approval has been given by the State for alteration of terrain (100,000 sq. ft.) for Settler’s Corner, inside the development, expected to be a 1 to 2 year job - Tax Map 246, Lot 23.

Mr. Weathers reported Dick Fortin has received wetlands approval for restoration work for 1,000 linear feet on White Lot Brook, East Conway, south side of Black Cap, which will impact approximately 2300 sq. ft.

He reported new signs have been put up at Hussey Field beach area indicating “swimming only, no kayaks.”

c. Member Roundtable – Ms. Kearney questioned progress with the Marshall property and was told Mr. Marshall is having another appraisal done.

Mr. Adair announced that NEMBA is holding a Trail Maintenance Day on Red Tail Trail on Sunday, June 16th to do typical drainage work.

Ms. Kearney reported she had attended the Source Water Protection Conference in Concord where they talked about the conservation land here, putting land in conservation to protect source water, noting there is 1.7 million acres in conservation in NH, forest cover in NH is at 82%, down from 87% in 1960, second only in the nation to Maine. Ms. Kearney said 2/3 of NH people get their water from public systems; the majority of the people live in southern NH, but the majority of the land that is protecting water source is in the north country.

She noted regarding LCHIP which was instituted in 2000 and is the \$25 fee you pay when getting refinancing, in 2000 100% of it went into matching funds, in 2013 there is no money.

5. Next Meeting – It was agreed there will be no July meeting. The next regular meeting will be August 14th.

Adjourn: There being no further business, **Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Mr. Huemmler and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary