

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2016**

The January monthly meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:30 P.M. at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway.

Present: Chairman Rob Adair, Dan Lucy, Linda Kearney, Pat Ferland, Alternate; Nat Lucy, Alternate; Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers, William Abbott, USVLT

Absent: Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler, Carol Lyman, Treasurer; Karla Allen

Also Attending: Conway Town Manager, Earl Sires, Nat Lucy, John Barley, Rob Zimmerman, David Paige, Orion Abbott-Paige

Chairman Rob Adair assigned Pat Ferland and Nat Lucy as voting members of the Commission at this meeting..

1. Approval of the Minutes 11/11/2015. Linda Kearney made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2015 CCC meeting; seconded by Pat Ferland. Chairman Rob Adair clarified that the discussion under “Roundtable” was regarding the WM National Forest and the Snowmobile Club. He asked for any further discussion; there was none. Chairman Rob Adair called for a vote to accept the minutes as amended. Motion passed. (4-0) 1 abstaining, Dave Weathers was not present at the meeting.

2. Reports:

a. **Marshall Conservation Area – Timber & Stone Trail Master Plan:** Josh Ryan, Principal/Trail Designer and Builder, spent many hours walking the trails in the past months, and presented a Master Plan for the trails through a slide presentation with discussion; He also distributed a very detailed report for the Master Plan. The report includes designs for two types of trails, recreation pathways and single track trails. It also describes options for the pathways that are already in place and new trails to be developed. The detailed report includes design recommendations, trail logs, photos and trail specifications. Cost estimates to build the trails are per foot. There is no cost estimate for the road because Josh Ryan believes it is unsustainable and it’s too steep; however, Josh suggested that it be maintained as an access. If the Town chooses Timber and Stone to perform the work, Conway pays directly for all materials to build the trails, and Timber and Stone pays for labor and rentals. The total cost estimate for this project is in the report.

Josh Ryan suggested cost sharing with the snowmobile club. He did not give maintenance costs on the existing trails because most of them need little work, which can be done in-house with volunteers. The challenge to build the recreational pathways is getting material in; Timber and Stone uses a IHI Track Hauler, with a 360 spin on the chair; it fits in the 8 foot wide trail.

A question came up about erosion control; Josh said they use shaping because of the minimal grades, and they use grade reversals to minimize long runs. Cross drainage is addressed, as well as any water coming up and down the slopes. They planned a consistent outflow of 3% to 5%. The material used is highly compacting, which is always successful. The specs are in the report.

There are existing skid roads that might be used in the future; a question was asked if they should avoid using them. Josh pointed out the worst areas on the trail, but most of them go across the skid roads. He suggested using an overlay to show them on the map.

Rob Adair asked if it would make sense to use the snowmobile trail on the western end of the Red Trail. Josh pointed out the drainage issues, and the activity on the existing trail. He does not advise using it due to drainage. Earl Sires made a suggestion and commented that he would like to see existing trails being used, rather than having new cuttings take place. Josh agreed and pointed out some options.

A question came up about culverts; Josh said there are only 5 in the whole project, and only one is 36 inches wide because it's on a steep slope.

The Conservation Commission thanked Josh Ryan for his presentation which was very informative for everyone..

- b. **Waxing Building at Whitaker Woods:** Chairman Rob Adair asked if the waxing house in Jackson is going to be moved; Nat Lucy was not sure at this time. Rob sent everyone an e-mail for a vote, in case the project was going to happen. Everyone who replied voted in favor.

Chairman Rob Adair asked for a motion to ratify the vote, to move the waxing building from Jackson to Whitaker Woods at the expense of the Ski Mobile Club. Linda Kearny made the motion; Dan Lucy seconded. With no further discussion, Chairman Rob Adair asked for a vote. Motion passed. (4-0-1) 1 abstaining, Dave Weathers.

- c. **Town of Stoddard – Bobcat Season Joint Letter:** Chairman Rob Adair received a letter from the Town of Stoddard opposing the Fish and Game's proposal to open a Bobcat Hunting Season. Chairman Rob Adair asked for any discussion. After some discussion it was concluded that bobcats are not that visible in the Conway area.

Chairperson Rob Adair asked for a motion to support the opposition, allowing the Conway Conservation Commission's name to be added to the letter which is requesting the Fish and Game evaluate and reconsider their decision to open a Bobcat Hunting Season. Linda Kearny made the motion; seconded by Pat Ferland. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

- d. **Election of Officers:** Chairman Rob Adair reviewed the positions that are terminating, and members present discussed the possibility of having everyone stay on.

Chairperson Rob Adair asked for a motion to keep the existing slate of officers in place for another term. Dave Weathers made the motion; seconded by Linda Kearny. No discussion. Motion passed. ((4-0-1) 1 abstaining, Rob Adair.

- e. **Selectmen's Report:** Dave Weathers reported that the Town received a detailed application for a new culvert along the south end of Davis Hill Road; the application is approved, and part of it is a request for the Conservation Commission to sign on, in order to expedite the project. The other application, which is in process, is to replace a boat house at 79 Chipmunk Lane on Conway Lake.
- f. **Member Roundtable:** Chairman Rob Adair announced that the Conservation Commission's report is due for Conway's Annual Report; he wrote a draft which includes news about the Marshall Conservation Area; he asked if anyone has any other information to contribute to please send it to him. He would also like photos. The report is due by the middle of February.

Chairperson Rob Adair asked if anyone has objections to grooming in the Marshall Conservation Area. An anonymous donor gave him a snowmobile and he would like to groom a three foot wide track. Everyone agreed in favor. Rob said he would do the major skid roads and post signs stating "grooming for non-motorized skiing, snowshoeing, and biking". Discussion about the snowmobile club concluded that they will stay on their trails but there is a chance that someone who is freelancing may wander on the trails. They will have to be monitored to avoid a problem. A suggestion was made to post a sign to say "stay on the corridor". Everyone agreed that the grooming demonstrates that the Conservation Commission is working on the trails.

Discussion continued on the Timber and Stone Master Plan for the Trails. The first step will involve the grading on the recreational trail to get hikers up to the flat spot. The single track trail will still be worked on by members and volunteers. The Master Plan is a long term goal; funding will be discussed at future meetings.

Chairman Rob Adair discussed the single track trail built years ago known as Ingalls Hill Trail, which is near the Town's access road, Ingalls Hill Road. He is proposing to call it "Shumway", which was Sut Marshall's father's name. Everyone agreed it is a good name.

6. Next Meeting – The next meeting will be February 10, 2016 at 6:30 at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway.

Adjourn: Linda Kearny made a motion to adjourn at 7:54 P.M.; seconded by Dave Weathers. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Ann Gallagher

Recording Secretary