

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2017**

The April 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, Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler, Linda Kearney, Dan Lucy, Nat Lucy, Alternate, Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers, Theresa Gallagher, Recording Secretary

Absent: Carol Lyman, Treasurer; Karla Allen, Pat Ferland, Alternate

Also Attending: Forester Don Johnson

1. **Approval of the Minutes for 3/8/2017:** Chairman Rob Adair asked for a motion to accept the March 8, 2017 meeting minutes; Dave Weathers noted one correction on page 2, 3rd line down should read “with the supervision by a professional forester or conservationist“, #5 should read “40 square feet” and #6, 2 lines from the bottom should read “At some point if the Town wanted to sell any parcel it would be a onetime inclusion which would not be beneficial to the Town.“ Larry Huemmler made a motion to accept the March 8th meeting minutes as corrected; seconded by Linda Kearney. Rob Adair called for a vote to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion passed (6-0-1). Rob Adair abstained as he was not present at the meeting..
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Rob Adair asked if the request for \$10,000 from LCHIP funds for USVLT Pine Hill Project has to go before the Board of Selectmen; Town Manager Earl Sires suggested having one person give a presentation and the CCC members vote on it so it will be recorded in the minutes. Rob Adair mentioned that there are no other LCHIP funded projects being discussed at this time. Currently the LCHIP funds have a \$12,638 balance. The Conway Conservation Commission does not maintain any part of the Pine Hill Project property. **Chairman Rob Adair asked for a motion to contribute funds for the USVLT Pine Hill project. Larry Huemmler made a motion to contribute \$10,000 of the LCHIP funds to the USVLT for their Pine Hill Project. Discussion confirmed that the funds can be used either for purchasing land or contributing to projects. Motion seconded by Dan Lucy. Rob Adair called for a vote to approve the CCC contributing \$10,000 of the LCHIP funds to the USVLT for their Pine Hill Project. Motion passed unanimous (7-0).**
4. Reports and Other Business:

Forester Don Johnson. reported on projects for this coming Spring. 1) There is a big pine tree down in Shed Woods. It will be addressed. 2) Their application for a grant from the Fish & Game to reopen the clearings on the side of Black Cap was approved for \$4,000. They plan to do the work in August, after the wildlife have finished nesting in that area. The Fish & Game wanted them to do the work over a two year period, but they said the area is too remote and difficult to get to, so they'd like to get it done all at one time. It's a little over 6 acres and they will repeat the same footprint they left after the last clearing. 3) Don Johnson said he noticed

small pine cones in the white pine trees in Whitaker Woods, which indicates some seeding will take place in the fall. He would like to do some discreet group cuttings, and monitor the area. It has worked well in the past with low visual impact. If there is no seeding, then he will not do the work and let it rest. 4) They plan to do some trail building in the Marshall Conservation area.

Don spoke about the Conservation Easements, which he helped get started years ago. There should be a defense fund to protect the easements, especially if the easement is challenged. Discussion continued on the process of creating easements in the Town.

Dave Weathers asked what the plan is for the scenic overlook on Route 16 by the former Elk's Club building. \$500 is set aside to clear the growth. Don has to check with the abutter on the north, the Audubon Society. Huge boulders have fallen into the river on the southern end of the Town's property, and the rip-rap is also believed to be on the Town's property.

Marshall Conservation Area – Earl Sires suggested using some land acquisition funds towards improving parking at the Marshall Conservation Area, which gets a lot of use. The difference between the land acquisition funds and the \$6,000 operation budgeted money is that the budgeted money will be used for trail maintenance, The Lucille section created last year goes up to Woods Road, which is flat; a big round turn will be created there, to get back to the landing. The land acquisition funds comes from penalties owners pay when they take land out of current use. After the snow is gone, Rob Adair and Don Johnson will take a look at the parking lot to plan for work to be done on it; anyone can join them.

Rob Adair took the last 17 years of CCC's budget and averaged them for presentation to the budget committee, and reported that this year's budget is less than the average.

Rob Adair reported that NEMBA did some flagging up on Hurricane Mountain Road and intend to complete it this Spring; they are planning to create an expert trail.

The Center Conway area by the beach has had little activity. On the west side the trail has not been kept up. There's another piece of property on the east side that is owned by the Town in that area, and there's a piece of land in the center that is privately owned. It also has a kiosk. It's possible to take some land acquisition money to work those trails. It could be included in next year's budget. Another thought is that the community may be interested in doing some volunteer work.

5. Selectmen's Report: Dave Weathers said there is nothing to report.

6. Round Table Discussion: None.

Next Meeting – The next CCC meeting will be May 10, 2017 at 6:30 at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway.

Adjourn: Linda Kearny made a motion to adjourn at 7:29 P.M.; seconded by Dave Weathers. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, *Theresa Ann Gallagher* Recording Secretary