

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2015**

The October meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:30 P.M. at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway. Minutes are taken from a recording of this meeting.

Present: Chairman Rob Adair, Carol Lyman, Treasurer; Karla Allen, Dan Lucy, Linda Kearney, Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers; Don Johnson, Forest Land Improvement; Josh Ryan, Timber & Stone, LLC

Absent: Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler, Matt Coughlan, Alternate; Pat Ferland, Alternate, Theresa Ann Gallagher, Recording Secretary

Matt Coughlan, Alternate, has moved to Albany and has resigned from the Conway Conservation Commission. Rob Adair will meet with a potential new alternate candidate and asked for any potential names to be passed along.

1. Approval of the Minutes 9/9/2015: Minutes were not received due to change in Conway staff; tabled for the November meeting.

2. Reports:

- a. **Marshall Property – West Side Road:** Chairperson Rob Adair walked the property with Town Manager Earl Sires and Josh Ryan of Timber and Stone, who was hired to prepare a master trail plan. Rob reviewed the Conway Conservation Commission's goals with Josh and opened the discussion on the conceptual plan for the property. The historical quarries on the property will be included in the plans. Josh commented that he sees great potential for the property. Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers expressed his concerns about having an access for emergency vehicles, such as fire fighters equipment and ATVs. He also expressed concerns about erosion. Josh has several maps of the property, including a GIS map and an aerial map with topographic lines. A map showing what areas were cut and which areas were not cut, showing regeneration, will be superimposed on the existing maps for future forestry work. Discussion continued pointing out areas that need to be opened. Josh suggested using previous ancient roads that are parallel to each other, but it will take time and work to get in between the grades. There are no restrictions on the roads and the trails can vary in width. The Conservation Commission's goal is to open the trails to more people who do not bicycle, such as people with strollers and wheel chairs. The topcoat on the trails, grades and flat resting areas have to be considered for this plan. . Leaving some tree covering will be helpful in rain. Discussion continued with a review of the map and trails that need to be developed and maintained. Snowmobile trails will be included in the plans. Existing trails will be maintained. Maintenance of the trails was discussed. The project is long range and will depend on funding. The Conservation Commission would like to see Josh come up with a rough cost estimate based on current pricing, and a rough schedule based on the goals presented. Josh commented that it is a

design challenge; his company used brush saws and chain saws to build trails. The parking area and softening the entrance to make it less intimidating is another consideration. The Conservation Commission's immediate goal is to have a recreational trail out front with some connectors, some single tacks (some may already exist) to be connected in new ways, and Josh's ideas in the plan. This plan will be presented to the Conway Town residents as a plan that is being worked on.

Josh Ryan will go out again to review the property and return to the Conservation Commission to present his ideas for the plan. Currently the existing trails need to be marked to prevent people from getting lost. Rob Adair started making signs for them. A kiosk will have to be built and accessibility to trail maps will also be helpful. Snowmobile trails were included in the discussion regarding off trail use. Josh Ryan will return with the plan and will continue communication with Chairman Rob Adair.

Chairman Rob Adair announced that the NH Association of Conservation Commission is having their annual gathering on Saturday, November 7th in Pembroke.

The Conway Conservation Commission reviewed the proposed budget for 2016. Carol Lyman presented the Treasurer's Report. \$3,000 is designated for trail work. Rob will talk with NEMBA about putting up kiosks. Jean Simons proposed having \$300 budgeted for binding the last three years of minutes. Don Johnson explained that the \$7,000 is allocated for the machine used to work on clearing the vista/wildlife opening on 7 acres of land. Funds from the Fish and Game, to offset the cost, may not be available for the work this year. Discussion continued on doing excavation work to make the brook crossing passable for equipment. Don's first priority is to consult with the Conway Conservation Commission, and second is to have a Forest Management Plan for the Marshall property, and possibly dovetail it in with the recreational trail plans. On the budget #3 Hubbard-Davis property- the lines need to be painted. With these items the 2016 budget is twice as much as last year's. Trail work for the Marshall property needs to be included in the budget for 2016. The Vista on Hurricane Mountain Road, the Brontosaurus, and the \$4,000 for the Forest Management Plan were discussed. Removing #6, \$2,750 for Vista clearing, #7, \$7,000 for the Brontosaurus, and \$4,000 for Marshall Conservation Area's Forest Management Plan is \$14,000, leaving \$3,000 in the budget. Add \$5,000 for trail work and maintenance (a priority), brings the budget to \$8,000. **Rob Adair asked for a motion to approve the 2016 amended budget for a total of \$8,511 Forestry Budget; Linda Kearney made the motion; seconded by Dave Weathers. No further discussion. Passed unanimously.**

Linda suggested giving NEMBA a donation for trail work. Rob said they don't need it as they just had a Flatbread fundraiser. NEMBA recently replaced the deck on the Rec Path bridge near the police station and paid for approximately \$1000 in materials for the project.

- b. **Selectmen's Report:** Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers reported that there was a very good turnout for the Marshall Conservation Area dedication and also for the 250th Anniversary dedication. One dredge fill application came in from Robert and Barbara

Campbell on Rebecca Lane; they received the approval for shoreline impact, single family residence for septic and driveway.

c. **Member Roundtable:** Rob thanked Karla for the work she did on her map.

6. Next Meeting – November 11, 2015 @ 6:30 PM at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway

Adjourn: Linda Kearney made a motion to adjourn at 7:01 P.M. seconded by Dave Weathers. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Ann Gallagher

Recording Secretary