

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 11, 2015**

The November meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:34 P.M. at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway.

Present: Chairman Rob Adair, Carol Lyman, Treasurer; Dan Lucy, Pat Ferland, Alternate; Don Johnson, Forest Land Improvement

Absent: Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler, Karla Allen, Linda Kearney, Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers

Also Attending: Colin Preece of Mountain Meadow Riders, Snowmobile Club, Cort Hanson and Larry Garland of MWV Trails Association, Julie Ferland

- 1. Approval of the Minutes 9/9/2015. Dan Lucy made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2015 CCC meeting; seconded by Carol Lyman. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes 10/14/2015. Dan Lucy Linda made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2015 CCC meeting; seconded by Carol Lyman. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Reports:

- a. **Mountain Meadow Riders Snowmobile Club:** Chairperson Rob Adair commented that Red's Trail in the Marshall Conservation Area is owned by Conway and asked what the Snowmobile Club is planning for the trail. Colin Preece explained that they have re-routed the National Forest part where there is a sharp turn and they still have to pull out the stumps. He has a map for the land regarding the Owners Partnership between the Bureau of Trails and the property owners. The Snowmobile Club completed a Memorandum of Understanding as requested by the Conway Board of Selectmen. Rob Adair said the gate for the trail on the Marshall property, which starts at the railroad tracks, will be opened once it is snow covered but not before December 15th. Colin Preece reported that the Snowmobile Club cannot use the tracks while the Conway Scenic Railroad is in operation and signs are put up to indicate that. Dan Lucy said he is concerned about snowmobilers wandering off the trails. Colin Preece responded that some of the new snowmobiles are equipped to handle rough terrain, and so some riders will venture off the trails. He then explained that one of the new projects is to connect the High Street extension to Bear Notch. They are working with the Forest Service but they have to prove they have access to the area. Colin Preece outlined the trails that the Snowmobile Club maintains; users do not have to belong to the Snowmobile Club. However, the State of NH encourages snowmobilers to join a club, which comes with great benefits to members. The trails are also used as multipurpose trails for everyone. Rob Adair asked if any paperwork has to be initiated by the Conservation Commission for

the land owners' agreement. Colin Preece said he will have to research that. Rob Adair said he will check with the Conway Town Manager. Discussion included an agreement with the Town's property being in place, then another agreement is needed for the Marshall property. Colin Preece will send the trail maps for the Snowmobile Club to Rob Adair.

- b. **Mt. Washington Valley Ski Touring/MWV Trails Association:** Larry Garland presented an update on some of the Association's activities. They have applied for a major Grant for the TAP, Transportation Alternative Program. The money comes from the Federal Highway Administration, set aside for non-motorized transportation projects by appropriation. The application is to obtain the funds to work on the section of trails between Intervale Cross Road and the Bancroft Property. The project was approved by TAP, but they do not have enough funding. The Town has to oversee the project, and last year the Town Warrant allowed the Town to disburse funds from the Grant; none of the money came from the Town's budget. The MWV Trails Association will apply for more grants in the future. They signed an agreement with the Town of Conway for stewardship responsibilities for the recreational trails on the Town land. Last year the Association connected with the Carroll County Coalition for Public Health to do a readiness assessment, focusing on public health. They did a survey with people in the community and received good feedback. The Association is planning to extend the Mountain Division Line trails (the rail trail in Fryeburg) through Conway and Bartlett to Harts Location, located within the railroad right of way where feasible. It would provide connections to other trails, which would allow people in the villages and towns to have easy access to the trails. Cort Hanson explained the details of the project (see attached report). They would have to obtain a permit from the DOT to cross the railroad tracks. The paved surfaces would benefit walkers and people with wheel chairs. Dan Lucy asked if there is an alternative plan to end at another point. Cort Hanson pointed out different locations on the map where that is possible. Discussion included the location of parking areas. Another concern is the pavement maintenance, especially dealing with cracks, which will be expensive to repair. Cort Hansen explained that currently a lot of discussion is going on about the pavement and stone dust and maintenance. The standards on the trails will vary in different locations, and some sections will require more work than others. The advantage of the trail is that it's all flat and on level ground.

Chairperson Rob Adair asked for a motion to approve the MWV Trails Association to build the green section of the trail as pointed out on the map, to make it useful to the community and to make it an amenity for the Town of Conway; Dan Lucy made the motion; seconded by Carol Lyman. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously by the four CCC members present.

- c. **Conservation properties updates:** Chairperson Rob Adair received an inquiry from Tyler Ray, a local attorney, who is interested in doing back county ski glades. He isn't ready to start the project yet, but wants to know if there are any concerns about clearing branches or undergrowth on Hurricane Mountain and Black Cap. Don Johnson said he is concerned about the scale the work will be done. There may be

problems where they recently did some harvesting but the older cuts are all filled in again. He agreed Tyler's project may have a good impact on the area.

A great job was done on the parking lot at the Marshall Conservation Area. It gives people a chance to turn around before getting back on the main road. Don Johnson submitted the bill, which used up most of the budget funds because it took more gravel than anticipated. He will hold off on Pudding Pond TSI. He reported that he was on the common lands compartment to Hurricane, doing property lines. He painted the property abutting Cranmore and a little bit of TNC.

d. **Selectmen's Report:** None

e. **Member Roundtable:** Discussion centered on the logging that is going on in the area from the covered bridge to Bear Notch; the logging roads can be connected. Dan Lucy suggested having a separate agreement for the Marshall property and renew it annually. Getting to Bear Notch can make a huge difference in traffic and the people who rent snowmobiles are not all club members.

Chairperson Rob Adair heard from Timber and Stone; they laid out and flagged the low grade easy trail up to the first flat that connects to the logging road. They will be coming back to do more work.

6. Next Meeting – There usually is no meeting in December; however if Timber and Stone submit the Master Plan for the trails, the meeting will be held on December 9, 2015 @ 6:30 PM at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway. Rob will send an e-mail to everyone to confirm the decision as the date gets closer.

Adjourn: Dan Lucy made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 P.M.; seconded by Carol Lyman. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Ann Gallagher

Recording Secretary