

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
November 12, 2014**

The November 12, 2014 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 (Chair) C. David Weathers (Selectmen's Representative), Linda Kearney, Karla Allen, and Dan Lucy.

Carol Lyman and Larry Huemmler joined at 6:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 10/08/14

It was noted that on page one of the minutes of 10/8/14, third paragraph, NEMBA should be changed to MWVSTA. **Motion was made by Ms. Allan, seconded by Mr. Lucy, to accept the minutes of 10/8/14 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

Carol Lyman and Larry Huemmler joined the meeting.

NEMBA – Trail Plan

Jana Johnson and Chris Joosen of NEMBA, Paul Kirsch of WM Milers, Chris Meier of MWV Trails Association, and Jeff Lougee of TNC were present for discussion.

Mr. Adair reviewed a map of the bypass mitigation lands and trails with the Commission. Mr. Adair next distributed and reviewed a proposed plan for White Mountains NEMBA stewardship. A copy of the information reviewed is attached hereto.

Jeff Lougee of TNC stated that on the habitat side, there is some beech forest and asked that the Commission think about the impact on habitat in these areas. He wonders what it would do to the black bear habitat.

MARSHALL WEST SIDE ROAD PROPERTY

Mr. Adair stated that the timber sale is well under way. HEB has completed the field work for the boundary survey and should have a plan next week. Also, the Boundary Line Adjustment is going before the Planning Board tomorrow evening. Mr. Adair next advised that discussion regarding the acquisition of the property will be on the Board of Selectmen agenda for November 18, 2014.

REPORTS

Don Johnson/FLI - Don Johnson advised that they are fully underway with regard to the Marshall Property and he has been in there to inspect. He was in once before operations started and then went in again and inspected things last week. Mr. Johnson advised that he had some concerns including some trees that were cut but not marked, some high value trees that were cut, and also some rot in some of the trees. Mr. Johnson advised that he sent a letter and also met with Jack Wadsworth to review and discuss these issues. Mr. Johnson next advised he is picking up truck slips and has not found discrepancies. He also talked to Jack about the first timber payment. Mr. Johnson advised he will be checking the slips and payments to monitor this matter.

Mr. Weathers asked about a road on the property and if we will be putting down seed as this could be used for access for emergency vehicles. Mr. Weathers stated he doesn't know if this is part of the agreement but he would hate to lose the road. Mr. Johnson stated that he did not think this was part of the agreement but he would check.

Mr. Johnson next stated there is a nice landing area on the property and it may be something that you want to keep for the future. Mr. Adair commented that it may be a nice area for a gazebo or something else.

Mr. Johnson next reported that with regard to Hurricane Mountain Road area they have one more timber payment. Maggie has said we are excessive on our barricading but this was done by the person running the excavator. It does discourage ATV's as it is totally uninviting. Mr. Johnson next advised that he didn't say no don't do that as he didn't think it was a bad idea but Maggie thought it was excessive.

Mr. Johnson next discussed Whitaker Woods Trail Work and advised that there is about \$3,000 left in the budget now for this trail work. He has struggled to get there and is behind the eight ball this year. He is hoping to get there next week but if there is snow on the ground he will not be able to do this.

Mr. Adair commented that he received a complaint from someone on Oak Street about someone dumping pumpkins in Whitaker Woods. He would like to see a no dumping sign put up. Mr. Adair next commented that the Dog Trail has been cut in Whitaker Woods and is ready.

David Weathers – Selectmen's Report – Mr. Weathers reported a permit was received for forestry cutting on Brownfield Road.

Mr. Weathers next reported that the Town got a permit from DES for the work being done on River Road. Last week we took out the steel plate bridge due to upcoming winter maintenance. A temporary culvert has been put in to get us through the winter until box culverts can be put in. We can now plow two lanes on that road.

Mr. Weathers next reported that the town has scheduled a viewing of tax sale land for next week. The Board of Selectmen will be going out to look at the properties. There is a lot on Valley west that he will be suggesting the town keep due to a dry hydrant.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Adair questioned if Commission members had any questions or comments about the trail presentation made earlier in the meeting. Mr. Weathers commented that it seems to be a pretty ambitious project and coordinating with different groups will be important.

Mr. Adair next requested input on the railroad crossing on Hemlock. Mr. Adair advised that we have to put in an application to the NHDOT Bureau of Trails and the application fee is \$400 and then \$50 per year. We could get volunteers to do the work. Mr. Weathers questioned how heavy this area is used. Mr. Adair stated the use is not heavy --but it is used. There was next discussion regarding the crossing. Mr. Adair explained this would establish a formal railroad crossing. Mr. Weathers questioned if there is money in the budget for this. Mr. Adair reviewed that there is a \$400 fee but the town doesn't have to spend any money for construction of the crossing. Mr. Adair next

questioned if the Commission agrees it is okay to start this project. Mr. Weathers stated he would like to table discussion on this matter for now.

With regard to Redstone Quarry, Mr. Adair next asked if it would be okay to go up and mark the red and green quarries. There was brief discussion, the Commission agreed with the concept.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that no meeting would be held in December unless something came up. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2014.

ADJOURN

At 7:50 pm, Ms. Kearney moved, seconded by Ms. Lyman, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hallowell
Recording Secretary

White Mountains NEMBA Stewardship
Conway Conservation Commission Meeting
November 12, 2014

Agenda

Trail-based Recreation - Master Plan

Community support for the development and maintenance of trails was strongly stated during the preparation of the Town of Conway Master Plan. As stated in the master plan:

"The most outstanding need and foremost recreation goal that emerged from the public participation meetings associated with the master planning process was related to greenways and multipurpose recreational trails."

"The only significant recreation deficiency in Conway is the absence of an integrated greenway and multipurpose trail system."

MWV Trails Association

- Rec Path Committee
- Dirt trail committee/NEMBA
 - Stewardship program

Establish process for new trail additions, including vetting with organizations such as TNC with regard to habitat & plant/resource protection

- Seek input from groups such as NEMBA, White Mountain Milers, TNC, Town Forester, snowmobile club, other organizations prior to presentation to CCC.
- Present to CCC for approval of concept
- If concept is approved, flag proposed trail in detail for review and final approval.

Hemlock Lane Trailhead (behind Walmart)

- Kiosk built as approved earlier this year
- Establish formal RR crossing; \$400 initial fee, \$50/year renewal.
- Improve trail from trailhead to stone pillar. Parts of this area can be very wet in spring.

Redstone Quarry area

- Install interpretive signs at historical features – Steve Swenson & Paul Kirsch are working on this.
- Create trail connecting Green & Red quarries (not necessarily biking trail)

Install trail signs (funding provided in Gibson-Woodbury grant that Earl Sires obtained last year)

- Numbered intersections (prepare database with lat-long coordinates for SAR purposes)
- Maps at key intersections, maybe 4 to 6 total
- Color code major trails

Hurricane Mtn Road Common Lands

- Add provision for future trails – layout to be determined and approved prior to construction
- Kettle Ridge Trail (approved trail on Cranmore's property), crosses corner of town's Hurricane Mountain Road Common Lands (see attached map sketches). OK or reroute?

Consolidate trails behind Pudding Pond log landing/pump track. Establish one well-designed and sustainable trail from back of pump track that flows well and stays out of wet areas.