

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 14, 2018**

The February monthly meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission took place at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway.

Present: Chairman Rob Adair, Dan Lucy, Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers, Theresa Gallagher, Recording Secretary

Absent: Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler, Carol Lyman, Treasurer; Linda Kearney, Karla Allen, Nat Lucy, Alternate; Pat Ferland, Alternate;

No quorum. The following are notes of the discussion that took place.

Also Attending: Alex Leich, Mike LeBlanc, New England Mountain Bike Association.

Public Comment:

Alex Leich presented an update on the work NEMBA did last summer on the downhill trail on Hurricane Mountain Road Common Lands. A lot of cutting on the top and bottom sections of the trail was completed. The middle section was recently clear cut with the brontosaurus, and now they are seeking approval to bring in mini excavators. The Association is applying for a \$10,000 grant to continue the work on that part of the trail. They know they need approval from the land owner. The CCC already gave them approval to bring in the machines. The section they worked last fall has mineral soil with a high level of clay content, which packs down very well, and is good for mountain biking. The clear cut has a thinner top layer. Chris Lewando operated the machines, and Corbit Tuole worked with him. Rob Adair explained how they used the pitting technique on the Marshall Conservation Area trails. Dave Weathers asked if the Conservation Commission has any liability for sharp stumps that are protruding next to the trail, in case someone falls into them. Alex Leich explained that the benefit of a machine built trail is that it tends to be wider than a hand built trail, and there is less chance for someone going off the trail. Right now they have no intention of using the machines on the upper section and lower sections of the trail, but they are going to add some drainage. They also will look at drainage for the middle section. With the funding they are applying for, they will spend some time on the landing, doing some re-seeding in areas that need it. It will help to establish a better route for future brontosaurus work in that area. Dave Weathers suggested that Alex Leich meet with Tom Holmes to compose a letter explaining the work to be done, so that Tom can either sign on behalf of the Selectmen or present it to the Selectmen; the State will then have a record of the Board of Selectmen granting permission to NEMBA do the work. Rob Adair said he will send an e-mail to the CCC members asking for a vote of approval. The grant application for the \$10,000 is due March 1st, so he will get a vote before then.

A question was asked about the mining operation going on next to one of the local trails; Rob explained that one of the pits is about 15 feet deep and mining has been going on since the 1950's. Mineral collecting is allowed. In the National Forest the mineral searchers are supposed to fill in their digs at the end of the day, but they don't follow that protocol. Alex Leich explained that one day when he went up there to do work, he found two people digging in the middle of their corridor. He approached them and they assured him they would fill in their dig when they were finished.

Alex Leich pointed out another pit crossing Red Tail Trail; he encourages the CCC to approach the Forest Service with that concern. The New Hampshire program for mineral searchers is developing policies and guidelines for the Commissions to follow.

Terms of Membership: Carol Lyman, Treasurer, will terminate; Karla Allen's membership will terminate in May; Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler, Nat Lucy, Alternate, and Pat Ferland, Alternate; memberships terminate this year, but they agreed to stay on for another three year term. Annually a Chairman needs to be elected. Rob Adair said he would agree to continue. .

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Ann Gallagher

Recording Secretary