

Conway Conservation Commission

**WEDNESDAY, November 13, 2019 6:30P.M. WHITAKER
HOME SITE MEETING HOUSE**

Present: Chair Rob Adair, Vice Chair Nat Lucy, Peter Minnich, Dan Lucy, Larry Huemmler, Pat Ferland

Absent: Linda Kearney

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Adair at 6:33pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the **October 9th** commission meeting were approved unanimously. Peter Minnich motioned to accept the minutes. Pat Ferland seconded.

Motion passed (6-0).

2. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

3. Reports and Other Business

Peter Minnich: E-Bikes

The meeting began with Peter Minnich tapping the Commission for thoughts on the growing usage of E-Bikes on many trails and commission lands. He also disclosed that for two years he had been the owner of a Class 1 E-Bike, which is a sort of E-Bike that remains primarily pedal-powered, though it is motor-assisted.

The current standing is that E-Bikes are allowed on multiple use trails where bicycles are allowed, unless otherwise stated by a local agency such as town government.

Peter asked if the commission would begin to consider what their E-Bike policy would be towards E-Bikes on commission lands and on town trails in general.

Selectman Representative David Weathers stated that it would be unwise of the commission to decide a policy to recommend to the selectmen without first consulting the public.

Peter noted that NEMBA (New England Mountain Bike Association) objected to the usage of E-Bikes largely on the premise that allowing Class 1 E-Bikes (which, again, are largely pedal-powered) would lead to the usage of Class 2 and 3 E-Bikes, which have more powerful motors and greater top speeds.

David suggested that Peter should contact the Thomas Holmes, the town manager.

Rob expressed concerns over the enforcement of any E-Bike policy, and noted that in the case of single-track trails, speed was largely limited by the trail itself. He then instructed Peter to take the lead on the commission's E-Bike policy and talk to Thomas Holmes. Peter agreed.

David Weathers: Selectmen's Report

David began by explaining that his previous (Oct 9) absence was due to a public input meeting with the Selectmen.

He then explained that there was currently a DOT project with federal money behind it towards armorizing the covered bridge abutments and center pier. They had received a permit from Fish and Game as well as the Army Corps of Engineers to do the work. He noted that the construction would likely occur very late next September, potentially even early October, and last 2-3 weeks. The plan goes as follows: put in an access point during low water, dig down, put in stone near the base, and then fill with grout.

He noted that the work was strictly preventative, and that he couldn't see any erosion.

David then wrapped up the town office notice by noting that AirBNBs had led to much higher housing values, but reduced tax income.

Member Roundtable: Saco-Swift River Local Management Advisory Committee

Nat Lucy opened this section of the meeting by noting that he and Larry Huemmler had seen 3 permit applications, but noted that there was a sort of rejuvenation of this sort of river committee in recent. He then explained that this (SSLMAC) committee reported to NHDES, and communicated largely through emails with meetings bimonthly.

He then explained that there were 2 projects in Bartlett with regards to redredge/restabilize/relevy the 302 bridge, but noted that there was much confusion as to whether it was a town or DOT responsibility.

Rob Adair then asked for any other issues to be brought up in the roundtable. Upon the lack thereof, David Weathers motioned to adjourn at his request.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm.