

## Conway Conservation Commission

**WEDNESDAY, April 8, 2020 6:30P.M. WHITAKER  
GO TO MEETING CONFERENCE CALL**

Present: Chair Rob Adair, Vice Chair Nat Lucy, Peter Minnich, David Weathers, Pat Ferland, Linda Kearney, Larry Huemmler; Don Johnson & Tim Nolan, Forest Land Improvement

Absent: Dan Lucy

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Adair at 6:35 pm. A statement was read regarding the COVID-19 situation and the need to conduct this meeting by conference call. The meeting was properly noticed more than 24 hours in advance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

David Weathers was not noted to be present in the March minutes, however he attended the meeting. Minutes for the March 11th commission meeting were approved as amended unanimously, with Larry abstaining.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment was given.

### **Reports and Other Business**

**Conway Scenic Railroad** – Derek Palmieri from CSRR contacted Rob about running trains on the Mountain Division line to Redstone for quarry tours. Derek and David Swirk, owner of CSRR, were going to come in to present their idea. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic they are closed until early May.

**White Mountain Trail Collective** – WMTC will be in the valley for two years building and maintaining trails. NEMBA/RideNoCo were to present a summary of work to be done on town land. Besides basic drainage and brushing, they plan to be building the parallel trail on Cranmore ridge that the CCC approved 2 years ago.

**Forest Land Improvement** – Don Johnson and Tim Nolan attended to introduce Tim as our new contact person. Tim has worked for FLI for many years and has worked on most of the town’s conservation properties. The main budget item for 2020 is the hopeful completion of Lucille’s Loop. FLI may subcontract this work out depending on when the 2020 budget is approved and when the Governor eases stay at home restrictions.

The requested tree removal at the Samuel O’Reilly (formerly Wyatt) house, south of Shedd Woods, was also discussed. Removal of the trees is likely to involve using a crane, with costs likely to be thousands of dollars. Rob has had at least two phone conversations with the owners but it is not clear if they are willing to foot the bill or are requesting the town take care of it. Rob noted that we did not include money in the budget for this work. Rob will call the landowners again to request they flag the trees so we can get a better idea of what is proposed.

### **Selectmen’s Report**

David reported that Rob’s and Nat’s terms were approved for another 3 years at the Selectmen’s April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

Nat report that Peter Donohoe, one of Whitaker Woods primary trail work volunteers, offered to clean up hardwood left on the power lines from the NH Electric Co-op’s work. He and his two college-age sons were willing to cut and split the wood and provide it to people in need of firewood. David suggested that BJ Parker at town hall would be a good source to find people in need. Most on the call agreed that good wood should not be left to rot. David offered to check with Tom Holmes about liability.

Rob reported that he plans to lead a NEMBA trail crew this summer to reroute the “Cow Bone” trail, which connect Lucille’s Loop to the Old Location Road. The idea is to create a less steep connector to join these two easy trails. Nat asked if the existing trail would be closed/brushed in upon completion, which Rob confirmed is the plan.

The meeting was adjourned at **7:05pm**, as motioned by Linda Kearney.