

# Conway Conservation Commission

## **WEDNESDAY, September 9, 2020 6:30P.M. DIGITAL MEETING**

Present: Chair Rob Adair, Sarah Frechette, Peter Minnich, Larry Huemmler, Pat Ferland, Linda Kearney, David Weathers, Dan Lucy, Tim Nolan (Forest Land Improvement), Abby King (USVLT)

Absent: Vice Chair Nat Lucy

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Adair at 6:32pm. It was explained that in accordance with the emergency measures put in place by the Governor, the commission was meeting digitally.

### **1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the **May 10th, 2020** commission meeting were approved. The motion was put forth by Linda Kearney, with David Weathers seconding.

### **2. Public Comment**

No public comment was given.

### **3. Reports and Other Business**

The commission welcomed the newest alternate, Sarah Frechette, as an addition to the current members.

Next, the commission met with Abby King from the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (USVLT), who explained that the land trust was requesting funding for the acquisition of a conservation easement for the Lucy Brook Farm Project. This project represented a significant agricultural conservation project, and was primarily funded through the ACEP-ALEP program. After a brief discussion on the current state of the commission budget, and the timeframe of the project, it was decided that the commission would put a motion to approve in front of the selectmen to support the full amount. Dan Lucy made the motion, with Pat Ferland seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The second matter of business with the USVLT was a request for a letter of support of their continued expansion of the Pine Hill project. The SVLT is applying for funding from the Moose Plate program in New Hampshire, and was asking the commission for a formal letter of support. Larry Huemmler made a motion to write the letter, and Linda Kearney seconded. It was approved unanimously.

The commission then moved on to more internal matters - specifically, Pudding Pond, which had flooded due to a beaver dam. The flooding was so severe that it had reached the train tracks to the west of the pond, and NHDOT

would like to put in a beaver box (“beaver deceiver”) - an open-bottom culvert - to lower the water level to its previous height. After some concern was expressed that we should avoid lowering it below its previous height, David Weathers motioned to allow the DOT to install a beaver box. Larry Huemmler seconded, and the motion was nearly unanimous, with Peter Minnich abstaining so that he could go and inspect the site himself.

There was a short discussion of stick structures built by one of the classes at John H. Fuller elementary school. A resident had complained that the lean-tos were an unsightly fire hazard, and the principal had said that the school would remove the structures. This being the case, no action was taken.

Next, David Weathers gave the Selectmen’s Report. There was a hiker on a trail on the Marshall Conservation Area who heard bullets, and found a person target practicing. A family who abutted the property had been practicing shooting, and denied any safety issues. After a brief discussion with a member of the family, David asked him to be conscious about the trajectory of the bullets for the target range. The family decided to post no-trespassing signs. After the presence of bear hunting cameras was brought up, the commission had a discussion on the use status of commission properties. All commission properties are multi-use, and allow for hunting in accordance with State of NH requirements.

David then informed the commission that a committee would be created this fall to address the various parking overflows that were such an issue this year.

Next came the Abenaki lands in Intervale. Howard Hatch had a suggestion of cleaning the surroundings of the property and putting up a chain link fence. Sarah, the newest member of the commission, had particular experience with this property. She explained that the buildings had been hollowed, and people had been using them for shelter. After expressing that a chain link fence would be a bit of an eyesore and send the wrong message, she suggested regular monitoring of the property could serve just as well, as well as better markings on the trails. The commission eventually decided to take an inventory of what needs to be done in the lands, and figure out a cost estimate.

Tim Nolan updated the commission. A bridge on the access road that goes to The Nature Conservancy property off East Conway Road is being rotted out. The Nature Conservancy was going to redeck the bridge, and wanted to give the town a heads up since it is on town land and see if any cost sharing is possible. The second matter that Tim wanted to comment on was the Fadden relocation of

the access road to get to the East Conway common land. It will be done later in the fall.

Rob then informed the commission that the NHACC annual meeting would be taking place via Zoom on November 7th.

Then came trail updates. The “Cow Bone” trail in the Marshall Conservation Area was relocated. The trail had come out very well, and it was looking for a new name. On trail maps, the locals had taken to calling it Holy Cow, which sounds good to most of the commission. The commission decided to keep this name. The Cranmore-Black Cap trail is complete, and the Pudding Pond loop trail needs to be moved to higher ground, which is on the docket for a 2021 project.

The commission then discussed the River Run development. Though its outside of the floodplain, so therefore outside of the jurisdiction of the Saco-Swift advisory committee, but the commission should have been notified since the property abuts town land.

### **Member Roundtable**

No comments were made during the member roundtable.

Linda motioned to adjourn, and David seconded.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.**