

Town of New Hampton Conservation Commission

New Hampton Town Office
Upstairs Meeting Room, 6 Pinnacle Hill Rd.
February 8, 2016

Minutes

Commission members present: R. Leroux, G. DuBois, D. Moore (Chair), R. Pollock, B. Rolfe

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

1) Minutes:

B. Rolfe moved and R. Leroux seconded accept the minutes for the 12/7/2015 meeting.
Vote was unanimous.

2). Commissioners reviewed the January 16, 2016 retreat notes listing out plans for administrating properties, monitoring easements, and assisting with ongoing town projects.

3) Prioritizing activities for 2016:

- Surveying and Marking Properties-
 - Kelley-Drake Conservation Area (KDCA) – Surveying because of ongoing stewardship management activities need to have clear boundaries.
 - Jenness Spring Conservation Area (JSCA) – has been surveyed, yet needs clear markings to maintain boundary.
 - Bald Ledge – surveying the trail and outlook to separate the vista and access from the larger piece of town owned property.
 - Snake River Conservation Area (SRCA) – marking current surveyed boundaries.
 - Jackson Pond property – talk to select board about setting aside the property for conservation and recreation uses and a joint effort in surveying and marking boundaries.
 - Glines Memorial Forest – survey and mark boundaries as part of designing a stewardship management plan for the property.
- Building and Maintaining Trails-
 - KDCA – following the stewardship plan and building on the recent freeing of fruit trees and clearing spaces for encouraging wild inhabitation, foot and snowmobile trails need to be rehabilitated. Partnering with the snowmobile clubs and historical society will assist with designing, creating and maintaining trails.
 - JSCA – doing maintenance for the trail to spring and to the parking area to create access to the spring.
 - Bald Ledge – routine maintenance of and blazing the path.
 - SRCA – complete design of trail access to property and find volunteers to begin trail construction.
- Monitoring easements – contact owners, walk property, document findings, create online repository for documents. Properties to be monitored: Dixon Hill, Riverwood, Merrill, Swain, and Vezina.

4) Discussion of the Robinson Falls property along Blake Hill Road – Moore reported that he had informal discussions with Henry Tepper, a land use consultant, about the 90 acre piece of property. Tepper suggested establishing connections with the owners and possible groups that do conservation through owning property or conservation easements in order to interest. Tepper also recommended discussing the possibilities of the town obtaining the property outright or the town providing assisting with the purchase of the property by a conservation organization, or what the town would do to assist in establishing a conservation easement on the property with select board.

5) New Business: (1) Pollock reported that he had heard from Sean Lagaeux, Town Forester, that there was some unauthorized cutting of timber at KDCA. Moore indicated that he had also talked with Lagaeux and Barbara Lucas, Town Administrator, and both reported to him that the police were investigating the incident. (2) Pollock also reported that he was busy creating an Open Space Plan for inclusion in Master Plan Update. All volunteered to assist in framing this document.

6) Old Business: None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Submitted,
D. Moore, Acting Scribe