

**Town of New Hampton
Conservation Commission
Minutes**

New Hampton Town Office
Upstairs Meeting Room, 6 Pinnacle Hill Rd.
September 14, 2015

Commission members present: R. Leroux, D. Moore (Chair), R. Pollack, B. Rolfe, P. Schlesinger

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

1. Minutes the August 14, 2015 meeting were moved by R. Leroux, seconded by P. Schlesinger to be accepted as written for the 5/11/2015 meeting. Vote was unanimous.
2. Snake River Conservation Area (SRCA): Moore reported on email communications with Erin Darrow from Right Angle Engineering. Darrow has reviewed trail access from both Winona and Waukegan roads and suggests that we meet with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) to discuss a full range of positioning options for parking areas in order to consider a variety of trails for the property. After discussions on parking access and trail location, it was decided that Moore would arrange for a meeting by commissioners with Darrow and NHDOT.
3. Kelley-Drake Conservation Area (KDCA) - discussion on work to be done at the KDCA center on the Apple Tree Release Project and the creation of a more complete forest management plan, which would include marking property lines and delineation of possible conservation education and recreation activities for KDCA. The consensus was to separate these two projects, as the Apple Tree Release could be done this fall, while the forest management planning is a complex and extensive project and could be combined into a more comprehensive project that would include contracting to establish forest management plans for a number of town owned properties.
 - A. Apple Tree Release Project:
 - i. Pollack stated that he believed that there were grants available to assist with Apple Tree Release Project. Schlesinger added that the New Hampton School had faculty lead students groups who would be available to move brush from the cleared apple tree sites as a service learning project on either Monday September 28th or Tuesday October 13th, and that Schlesinger would contact the School, if the cutting could be completed by those dates. Moore stated that he would find out if there were grant monies and if Shaun Lagueux, New Hampton Town Forester, who first proposed the apple tree project, would be able arrange to complete the brush cutting within that time frame.
 - ii. Rolfe moved and Leroux seconded a motion: To authorize the spending of up to, but not over, \$1000.00 to supplement any grant monies that maybe available, in order to complete the Apple Tree Release Project. Motion passed unanimously.
 - B. Forest management planning:
 - i. Discussion focused on the need to have a multiyear approach to effectively manage the use, care, and development of KDCA. There was also a desire to use a similar approach with the Glines Memorial Forest and Jenness Spring Property, as well as, the town owned properties at Jackson Pond and Bald Ledge. Because of the extent and complexity of this project, it was decided that Moore would talk with the Barbara Lucas,

the Town Administrator, the Selectmen, and Shaun Lagueux about the range of properties involved, the details the work to be done, and process for soliciting proposals to complete the work.

4. New Business:

- A. Leroux reported that he attended a landowners relations seminar on wildlife management put on by New Hampshire Fish & Game that dealt mostly with helping private landowners encourage hunting and fishing, but while there connect with Lisa Morin, Program Coordinator for Belknap County Conservation District, and she provide the names of several professionals that could assist us with our forest management plans.
- B. Schlesinger reported that she attended an information session held on the Northern Pass project, and that Neal Irvine, New Hampton Selectman, Barbara Lucas, Town Administrator, and New Hampton property owner, Phil Preston all made impassioned pleas for Eversource to preserve New Hampton's natural beauty and bury the power lines through the town.
- C. Pollack reported that there is a 90 acre parcel of land off of Blake Hill Rd which is rugged, sloping, tree covered, has several waterfalls and abuts property owned by the conservation group, the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF). It was the decided that Moore would make inquiry NEFF and try to work up some interest in creating a combined effort for obtaining and preserving this property.

5. Old Business:

- A. Moore reported on retrieval of images take by our various motion activated cameras on our properties. Schlesinger volunteer to review the images and report back on her findings. Moore then presented one of the cameras that had been destroyed by a vandal with a firearm.
- B. Moore reported that he had a conversation with Harold Lamos, a New Hampton property owner, about the continued water flow from the town of Ashland Water and Sewer overflow pipe located on his property into Ames Brook. It was decided that Moore would consult with Barbara Lucas, Town Administrator, as to the progress on resolving this issue.
- C. Moore offer that he had several books dealing with creating and managing conservation easements for use by commissioners, as we prepare to monitor easements that the commission holds.

The commission voted to adjourn at 8:40 pm

Submitted by

Daniel P. Moore
Acting Scribe