

**Town of New Hampton
Conservation Commission
Minutes**

New Hampton Town Office
Upstairs Meeting Room, 6 Pinnacle Hill Rd.
November 16, 2015

Commission members present: R. Leroux, G. DuBois, D. Moore (Chair), R. Pollock, P. Schlesinger
Guest present: Shaun Lagueux, New Hampton Town Forester

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

- 1) Minutes the November 9, 2015 meeting were moved by R. Pollock, seconded by R. Leroux to be accepted as written. Vote was unanimous.
- 2) Discussion with S. Lagueux on the commission's desire to free apple trees and do some work on the current stewardship management plan on the Kelley-Drake Conservation Area (KDCA):
 - i. Lagueux reported that wild apple trees provide food and other habitat resources for wildlife and ensuring that trees get direct sunlight is the most effective way to enhance its productivity. Therefore, the commission will need to clear of surrounding overgrowth, to enable the old orchard and trees that dot the field edges and margins to flourish.
 - ii. Lagueux suggested three possible approaches for freeing these trees. First, was for the commission to focus solely on contracting the clearing of the tree overgrowth, which could be done this winter. A second approach would be to contract, in accordance with the current KDCA management plan, for thinning trees in areas Stands #4 and #6 of the plan. This approach would require that the contracted logger clear tree overgrowth, as well as, be permitted to do selective tree harvesting in Stands #4 and #6. An advantage to this approach is that it offers some revenue to the commission in addition to freeing trees and could be under contract for this winter. Lastly, Lagueux suggested that, if the commission is rethinking its general objectives for the property, it could contract for a new stewardship management plan in which apple tree freeing would be placed as a high priority. This would push back the tree freeing to next year.
 - iii. The commissioners reviewed and discussed Lagueux's approaches. Because of agreement with objectives outlined in the current management and a desire to provide revenue while improving habitat for wildlife, as well as, encouraging forest diversity and recreation possibilities on KDCA the commissioners were in consensus with the second approach.
 - iv. Schlesinger moved and Leroux seconded that the commission contract with Lagueux to act as agent and project manager for the New Hampton Conservation Commission

(ConCom) in contracting a mosaic thinning harvest in Stands #4 and #6 from the current management plan and include, in that contract, the desired clearing apple tree overgrowth. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3) New Business: None
- 4) Old Business: Pollock mentioned the need for ConCom to have clear and professionally attested boundaries on town properties, so as to have no disputes over ownership when harvesting trees or making any changes to the landscape. Therefore, we might want to look at contracting for surveying our properties. All commissioners were in agreement. Lagueux added that it is good management practice to have boundaries clearly marked during forest harvesting or in merely exercising responsible ownership, and encouraged the commission to do so. However, Lagueux added that Stands #4 and #6, as listed in the current KDCA management plan, are well within and not adjacent to KDCA's boundary lines, so boundary marking is not an essential prerequisite for this particular project.

The commission voted to adjourn at 7:42 pm

Submitted by,
Daniel P. Moore
Acting Scribe