

**Town of New Hampton
Conservation Commission
Minutes**

New Hampton Town Office
Upstairs Meeting Room, 6 Pinnacle Hill Rd.
March 14, 2016

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

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

1) Minutes: Rolfe moved and Leroux seconded acceptance of the minutes for the 2/8/2016. Vote was unanimous.

2) Kelly Drake Conservation Area (KDCA) Timber Cut: Leroux reported on a walk that he and Moore had on the Kelly Drake Conservation Area's recently timbered areas. He showed photos of the fruit trees on the slopes falling away from the old farm cellar holes, which had been freed to attract wildlife and photos of the selective timbering of two additional areas, a three acre stand which was a mix of pine and hard woods and a one acre stand of pine down towards the lake. A third area that was flagged for cutting was postponed due to the thaw.

3) Next Steps for the KDCA:

- a. Surveying- because of the bounds described in the warranty deed are based upon natural figures (mostly blazed trees) and temporary manmade structures (presence of wire fencing), it was decided that Moore would check with Barbara Lucas, Town Administrator, for names of surveyors that might be used to provide definitive measuring and marking of property bounds.
- b. Fruit tree pruning- now that the fruit trees are freed of over and under growth, they need to be trimmed and pruned to enhance fruit producing in order to attract wildlife. Following discussion on the necessity of doing orchard pruning to enhance tree fruit production, Rolfe motioned and DuBois seconded a motion to authorize up to \$1500.00 to contract with an arborist to begin pruning the freed fruit trees. Vote was unanimous.
- c. Engaging with other groups to develop recreation and historical preservation:
 - i. Moore reported that Shaun Lagueux, Town Forester, had a conversation with snowmobilers, who were interested in designing, cutting, and maintaining a new snowmobile trail that would connect to Meredith. It was decided that Moore would follow up with Lagueux.
 - ii. DuBois reported that Peter Gulick, from the New Hampton Historical Society, was interested in the history of the Drake Farm. It was decided to walk the property with Gulick and get a sense of the possible joint efforts.

4) Easement monitoring schedule: the New Hampton Conservation Commission is responsible for six easements (Dixon Hill, Riverwood (easements on two town owned properties), Merrill, Swain and Vezina) and it was decided to do, Dixon Hill and Riverwood on Friday April 1, 2010. Moore would contact property owners and the commissioners would review monitor procedures prior to monitoring the properties.

5) New Business: Leroux present information about a recent action by the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game, concerning their voting to institute a limited hunting and trapping season for bobcats. There was concern as the bobcat hunting and trapping had been halted in 1985 when the bobcat population had shrunk to 50 cats. Because of the controversy over the science surround the rebounding population, the commission voted 4-0-1 to authorize Moore to write the NH Joint Legislative Committee on Rules voicing opposition to the rules for the approved bobcat season.

6) Old Business: None.

Submitted,
D. Moore, Acting Scribe

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