

Charlestown Conservation Commission Minutes 16 Aug. 2010

Members present: Dick Holmes (Chairman), Steven Dumont, Travis Royce, Steve Neil (ex officio), Michael Francis (sitting for Jim Fowler)

Guests present: Larry Crocker, James Thaxton (Upper Valley Land Trust)

Meeting called to order 7:08 by Dick Holmes

Minutes of 19 Jul 2010 approved as amended

- 1) Steven updated the committee on the status of Charlestown's section of the Upper Valley (UV) Trails website. The pictures have been added and they should be online at the end of August or when the new website comes up. Steven is going to ask the manager's of Charlestown's website to put a link to the UV Trails website through which people can look at the trails in our town. It was also agreed that we should shut down the Hubbard Hill Trail until the logging is done. Steven will shut it down.
- 2) Hubbard Hill State Forest: Steve Neil informed us that the logging trucks will be taking the Burroughs Road to remove the logs.  
Dick Holmes applied July 1<sup>st</sup> for an annual permit for conditional use on the Hubbard Hill Trail. This year they will be separating us from the Snowmobile Club's permit. They see no problem with us getting a permit for hiking.  
Also, Ingeborg Seaboyer from the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) would like to look at damage done in said forest from 4-wheelers, trucks, etc.
- 3) Paint: Travis Royce bought the paint for the boundary marking. Steve Neil made a motion to reimburse Landmark Land Surveying for the cost of the paint in the amount of \$179.92. Steven Dumont seconded the motion. The motion passed.  
Dick asked about storage of the paint. Travis will check with Dave Edkins or Keith Weed about possibilities.  
The Reservoir, Halls Pond and Hubbard Hill forest boundaries need marking. Dick would like to mark the trees around the logging operation before logging commences. Maybe combine with Adopt-a-highway cleanup.
- 4) James Thaxton from the Upper Valley Land Trust (UFLT) came in and spoke with us about a Scenic Byways Grant application submitted for the Fort at No. 4. He also spoke about a Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant application that was being submitted to match the funds. The new board for the Fort would like to raise money to refurbish structures there and secure a conservation easement. There was much discussion about the cost and the amount of money needed. James would like to use the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for research for the application. He also asked if we would write a letter of support for the LCHIP permitting. We asked about the specific plans of the board for the Fort. James has not yet met with them to see what exactly they would like to do.  
James asked about writing letters for conservation easements around town. Dick informed him about our plans to ask land owners about said easements. Larry Crocker explained some of the benefits of easements he researched and James added input on that research. Larry also gave us a copy of properties in current use with 20 or more acres to add to our list. There was much discussion about properties, getting easements and talking with people about conserving land and the benefits. James left a folder with us with information.  
Dick mentioned we should plot out properties on a map we'd like to get easements on that are in the critical areas described in the NRI. We also discussed possibly contacting Ken Alton from TransCanada about getting easements along the river on land

TransCanada owns. Ken has been cooperative in the past and it was agreed that that is a crucial area in our town.

Meeting adjourned: 8:33 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Steven Dumont

Minutes approved by Dick Holmes, Chair

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Dick Holmes

Date