

Meeting Minutes

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

06/06/13

June 6, 2013

Present: Alan Strickland, Chair, Jeanine King, Phil King, Sue Hagerman, Shirley Green, Dwight Marchetti

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

May Minutes:

Corrections to May minutes – corrections made to specific wording as per Shirley and Alan.

Motion made by Alan to accept May 2013 minutes as amended. Seconded. Passed.

Wetlands permits: Alan and Dwight discussed the process and length of time involved. It can be signed.

Motion made by Dwight to approve the request, seconded, passed.

Old Business:

Shirley Green to update on watershed study: last week when Shirley talked to Eric it was looking bleak. As the money came from federal funds, it could only be used for impaired implementation. Then she received an email from him that was encouraging, saying it is possible that the next round, that will go out later this month, will provide limited funding for one planning project. The process is very competitive according to Eric. Shirley can check to see how many people will be applying for it. Dwight asked what is needed to move forward. Shirley said she will continue to move forward. Alan asked about cost for proceeding. No cost according to Shirley. We won't know the cost until we get into the application process. Most of the cost is in-kind. \$6 – 8 k needed for mailings and educational parts, if accepted. No cost if not accepted. You have to give estimate of what your cost will be in the application because there will be a matching amount. Shirley pointed out that we previously discussed using funds existing in Conservation account. Alan confirmed that there is \$15 – \$16 k. About the education brochure, Shirley has been investigating the best way to print it. She talked to Alisa Bonnette, and found out that using the town offices copier is more affordable, even for color copies. The official brochure will be updated soon, and available to use. We will have to see what the timeline is for the grant. Sue complimented Shirley on her nice work.

Sue's letter: Re: Ken Warren and mowing along the Rail Trail. Alan asked Dwight to talk with Steve to get the town to do it. If not we would have to pay \$350. Jeanine asked if the letter could be forwarded to Jim Taylor. Dwight thinks \$350 is pretty expensive to do the section in question. The feeling is that the town should take care of it. Letter will be forwarded to the town.

Management Plan for Bicknell Forest with forester Ehrhard Frost: This has been put on hold for two years. The funding has been approved. A new contract was sent from Ehrhard Frost to do a Management plan. They'll take inventory and propose the plan. We can't do anything by law without a management plan. Purpose is to take a look at all the different features of the land in order to determine which species to support and expand (as per Sue). The Land Trust people were all for this. The plan would be in place in case of a blown down or whatever, which would allow repair work to be determined. Not to exceed \$5,500. Selectmen said it would come out of the Conservation Commission fund. Dwight questioned spending the money to do what is basically a wildlife management plan. He is for leaving it alone. Sue said that the point is that we need a land management plan in order to do anything with the land by law. Alan stressed that the number one goal is to maintain the trails and the water quality. Ehrhard is known to be one of the best foresters in the state. Alan said we don't have to anything; we can let it go. Dwight would be interested in reading a study to review typical findings. Alan gave Dwight a sample plan to review. A discussion ensued between Alan and Dwight about possible actions as a result of the plan, including if any logging was done and where the money would go

(general fund). Kurt (visitor) said that a natural resource inventory similar to one done on wetlands would be interesting. We need to decide tonight whether or not to proceed.

Jeanine made a motion that we proceed with the management plan. Seconded.

Dwight feels that we could put our money to better use. Town owns land around Suki marsh and reservoir. Good to keep on track of what is going on with these different tracts of land, but thinks \$5,500 is a lot to do a study. Alan thinks it is reasonable. Jeanine pointed out that Dwight missed the presentation by Ehrhard Frost about what he would do, and why. Sue pointed out that a management plan gives the ECC more latitude in determining what to do in the event of a natural disaster. Shirley has a hard time with the idea of management. Would rather know what the resource inventory is, but the idea of human intervention isn't agreeable to her. Alan said that doing nothing is also a management plan per se. Explanations were made by different members about the benefits of a management plan. Sue said we could table the motion to allow Dwight time to catch up, or pass it. Alan said the motion has been seconded. Sue said we are in the discussion phase. We could accept an amendment to table it, or not. She would prefer that everyone have time to refresh their knowledge about the previous presentation. Alan said that the first thing Erhard would like to do is set the boundaries. Dwight asked about cost, which Alan said would be \$60 per hour. Dwight would like a more concrete assessment of what this means; an estimate. Alan said the \$5,500 included this.

Motion made by Dwight to table the decision until the next meeting.

Alan read an updated letter from Ehrhard regarding his original quote for the management plan, indicating that his pricing has not changed.

Shirley seconded the motion to table the decision until the August meeting. All in favor, with one abstain.

Shirley said it would be helpful for Alan to provide any information he receives on the topic to the committee before the meeting.

*letters from Ehrhard Frost included after text of Minutes.

Correspondence:

5/14/13: Strickland worked on ridge trail with Ron Bailey and Alf Elvested.

Alan: Bridge repaired on Bicknell Brook. Linda Jones and Alf Elvested had no problem with people cutting across their property.

5/24/13: Strickland met with Fish & Game officer to check out violations on Shaker Mountain

5/31/13: Strickland met with landowner Jim Petryk to look at trails behind Lakeview Condos.

DES to Michael S Michalenoick, Map#18, Lot#52 for approval after-the-fact request to retain a seasonal dock/////DES to Lauri and Robert Maltz, Map#32, Lot#8 for Shoreland Impact Permit. Permit was issued.

DES to Town of Enfield at Route 4-A and Shaker Bridge for modification and improvement to the Town of Enfield public boat launch on Mascoma Lake. **Signature is required for expedited review.**

Mascoma Advisory Commission: Request from Kurt Gotthardt for funds to help support a staff position. This is a relatively new organization. We got the Mascoma River designated as a state significant river. This group is now a subset of a state agency. 1. Regulatory for the river itself within a quarter mile of the flood zone of the river corridor. 2. If there was a major project proposed (such as a hydro dam) they would have authority to go to Concord to argue it. More power than an ordinary citizen. 3. More commonly is that the volunteer board is doing an outreach plan and a river corridor management plan. We sent out letters to owners along the river asking about views on priorities. Feedback was put into a management plan. The Commission will be working on implementing these projects. Because the board is all volunteer, but part of a state agency, we can use the regional planning commission, and make use of their staff, Rachel. She sits in on their meetings once a month, plus provides qualified planning, administrative, and grant writing assistance. Her time is not being volunteered. Someone has to pay her. The Canaan Conservation Commission has donated \$500 so far, and \$2,500 from NWCC. We anticipate needing \$5,000 yearly. Lebanon has been approached for

a contribution. The long-term goal come budget season is to get on the list of nonprofits being added to the town warrants, asking for ongoing support. The Commission is asking the Enfield Conservation Commission to make a donation, hopefully, a one-time expense, to help them this year until they are better funded. They legally started in November/December of 2012. Shirley told Kurt that there is a specific date he has to have his request in to the town to be added. Dwight pointed out that someone from this group already came before this Committee and were given their blessing. He asked if there was any thought given to funding when they formed the commission. Yes, according to Kurt, approaching different towns, and the state, as they are now doing, was part of the plan. Shirley said that this is protecting our water and that we should help.

Shirley made a motion to give \$500. Seconded by Jeanine. All in favor.

New Business:

Dwight: Ben Kilham's talk is on for October 3, 2013, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Setup needs to be done before the event and taken down afterwards. The town has a large screen which Ben requires. Dwight will get the key for the community building. Ben's fee is \$250 for a 35 – 40 minute presentation, followed by an open discussion. This needs to be well-advertised. Can we use the Lion's billboard?

Dwight made the Motion that we allocate \$250 to pay Ben's fee. Sue seconded. All in favor.

Alan thought we would need more for food, but Dwight said no food. Shirley said we need a transaction ad (approximately \$84), plus mileage for Ben. Sue suggested expenses not to exceed \$400.

Alan: Septic system on North Shaker Village: Jim can't get a permit from the state to fix it. It's in bad shape, and about to go into the lake. Jim thinks they are waiting for it to break and go into the lake to fix it on an emergency basis. Alan asked Jim what ECC can do to help. He would like a letter of support from the Committee. Alan suggested we write a letter. Shirley wondered if there was something about the plan they didn't like. Alan will draft a letter to send to Sue for review.

Sue made a Motion that the commission write a strongly worded letter to the state to ask them to avoid a disaster. Seconded by Jeanine. All in favor.

Shaker Mountain Hike on old home days: Shirley is on this committee and would like to do a hike on Shaker Mountain. Sunday, July 28th. Alan suggested 2:00. It would be 2 – 3 miles of moderate to strenuous terrain. The hike will begin at the Stone Mill at the Shaker Museum.

No July meeting. Next meeting will be on August 1st.

Motion made by Dwight to adjourn. Seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:23.

Submitted by:

Shelley Geoghegan

Ehrhard Frost
CERTIFIED ECOFORESTER
N.H.L.P.F. #103



6078 ROUTE 113
THETFORD CENTER, VT 05075
(802) 785-4749

21 May 2013

Alan Strickland, Chairman
Enfield Conservation Commission
PO Box 154
Enfield Center, NH 03749

Dear Alan:

Enclosed is a copy of my 26 December 2011 letter to you regarding a forest inventory and management plan for the Bicknell Forest. I reviewed the letter; rates have not increased since that time and the project cost is still valid. If the Conservation Commission is not interested in collecting and cataloging any portion of data listed in the inventory elements, these can be eliminated and costs reduced. Personally, since this is public land held to preserve the natural heritage of the Town of Enfield, I view the inventory and plan as baseline documentation for the forest condition. Botanical data can provide information about the site and also can inform forest management decisions. Ecosystem components gauge structural diversity and complexity as well as wildlife habitat. I am happy to have a conversation with you and the commission regarding options.

I spoke with Pete Helm at Upper Valley Land Trust last week regarding the boundary change. He thought that this should be cleared up by 1 June 2013. Pete and I will stay in contact regarding that matter. Once the State of New Hampshire has acted, we should be clear to move ahead and Chris Rollins can remove the flags from the various boundary lines, retaining the new agreed to line.

I will contact you in early June after receiving confirmation that the boundary issue is finalized. At that point we can decide how to proceed. Feel free to contact me with any questions. I look forward to working with you on this project and on the Bicknell Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ehrhard Frost", written over a horizontal line.

Ehrhard Frost
Certified Ecoforester & NHLPF # 103

Enclosure

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26 December 2011

Alan Strickland, Chairman
Enfield Conservation Commission
PO Box 154
Enfield Center, NH 03749

Dear Alan:

Thank you for contacting me regarding an inventory and management plan for Enfield Tax Map #9, Lot #45, owned by the Town of Enfield. Dave Falkenham's letter refers to the tract as the Enfield Town Forest. The easement map is titled **Bicknell Forest**. Does the property have an official name? I have reviewed the maps, articles and other material that you sent and also obtained a copy of the easement from Pete Helm at Upper Valley Land Trust (UFLT). This property sounds like a gem!

I believe that the tract encompasses 180 acres, of which 173 acres is subject to a conservation easement held by UFLT. I believe that the entire tract should be inventoried and mapped.

Prior to designing and conducting an inventory it is essential to locate and mark the property boundaries. Blazing and painting is the best long term method for marking boundaries; metal tags or signs are also a possibility. Flagging is temporary and is best considered preliminary and a guide for blazing. Volunteers can paint and maintain boundaries after they are professionally located and initially blazed. Locating the boundaries also allows us to GPS them and create a base map for the inventory. All lands which I manage must have well marked boundary lines. Clearly marked boundaries protect property owners from adverse possession claims and timber trespass, demonstrate use and occupancy and define the limits of forest management. We can discuss the boundary situation further.

A forest plan for the subject property entails the following:

1. A forest inventory of the property that includes the following elements:

- Floristic inventory
 - Trees species
 - overstory (all trees 2" DBH or greater tallied by species, 2" diameter class, product, if any, crown class and growing stock category, basal area, trees/acre, volume/acre, species composition by % of basal area, basal area/acre by crown class & growing stock category)
 - regeneration (stems/acre by species and browse survey)
 - shrubs (visual, not quantitative)
 - ferns and allies (visual, not quantitative)

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- flowers (visual, not quantitative)
- invasives (visual, not quantitative)
- graminoids on a limited basis (visual, not quantitative)

- Forest structure (including age), composition, successional stage, crown density, and stocking level for each stand
- Forest health, including insect and disease, logging damage, ice, snow or wind damage, recreational use impacts and other signs of natural or human disturbance
 - Prominent ecosystem structural components
 - unique trees
 - snags and cavity trees
 - Retained Organic Material [ROM] (or down woody material)
 - Horizontal and vertical diversity
 - Mast trees (hard and soft mast)

 - Wildlife sign and usage (generally visual sign and visual & auditory observations for birds)
 - Significant natural features including ledges and steep slopes, streams, vernal pools and other wetlands
 - Man-made features such as roads, recreation trails, stone walls, wire fences and other cultural features, as observed

Note: The elements listed in #1 above are not all inclusive, rather they represent a snapshot in time and space. Not every inch of ground will be examined, not every attribute discerned nor every plant discovered and/or identified. The inventory of flowers, ferns and shrubs will be limited by the timing of the inventory and is not intended to be a complete botanical inventory of the subject property. Both natural and man-made features will be noted during the inventory process and mapped when possible. We can work with Amber at UVLT and obtain a GIS layer for the trails.

2) A forest management plan that will include the following:

- A forest type map
- A Locus map
- A soil map, topo map and inventory map
- A description of the property location, boundaries, access and uses
- A discussion of the landscape
 - ✓ Topography
 - ✓ Soils
 - ✓ Bedrock geology
 - ✓ Climate
 - ✓ Hydrology
 - ✓ Land use history
 - ✓ Exotic plants (Invasives)
 - ✓ Native plants
- Examination/Inventory methods and forest type classification

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- Management goals and objectives (defined by the easement and the Conservation Commission)
- Descriptions and stand data by forest type
- Natural Community designation
- Prescriptions/Recommendations
- Summary

- Appendix
 - Treatment schedule (if any)
 - Works consulted
 - Glossary
 - A Table of Maturities and/or Expected & Maximum Ages of Selected trees of Northern New England
 - Species Abbreviations
 - Key to Forest Stand coding

Additionally, "permanent" inventory points will be installed on the ground utilizing a 10" spike topped with a nylon whisker, marking and numbering nearby trees as witnesses with blue tube paint and then GPSing the location. This will make future inventories easier and less expensive and also provides an on the ground reference for forest managers and the commission.

The cost of the inventory work and a management plan for Bicknell Forest will range from \$ 4,500 to \$5,500 for professional services. Material and out-of-pocket expenses, such as flagging, spikes, tube paint, hip-chain thread, computer processing, copying and binding..., is estimated at \$90 to \$150. This estimate is based on my hourly rate of \$60/hour and various rates for my associates. Currently, I am working with Bill Stack (MS in Forest Engineering from Oregon State University) and Donn Downey (BS in Environmental Studies, currently enrolled in a Masters program in Conservation Biology). Hourly rates for these individuals range from \$40 to \$55. The cost of the project is based on the time required to complete the task. If less time is required you will be invoiced accordingly. If it takes more time than I have budgeted **your cost will not exceed \$5,500** plus expenses. In addition I provide a \$5.00/hour courtesy to municipalities; the above stated rates will be reduced by \$5.00/hour.

The payment schedule for the project is divided into three installments: an initial deposit of 25%, \$1,375.00, a second payment of 35% of the project cost, \$1,925.00, due upon completion of the fieldwork and the balance due upon project completion. Should the Commission wish to engage our services I would provide a letter of agreement incorporating the scope of work and payment details.

Enclosed are two plans: 1) The Boston Lot and Signal Hill plan, just completed or the City of Lebanon; and 2) 2008 plan for four properties owned by the Town of Thetford. The Lebanon plan did not include a forest inventory. The Thetford project included natural communities mapping and

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rare, threatened and endangered species. Both documents represent my only hard copies; I would appreciate their return. My Professional Resume is also enclosed; references are available on request.

Should the the Conservation Commission wish to proceed I propose the following time line:

- locate, flag and GPS the boundaries in early spring 2012 (after the snow is gone and before leaf-out ideally)
- perform the inventory between late May and September 2012.
- Provide preliminary findings and maps to CC winter 2012-13
- Provide final report and maps on or before 30 June 2013.

I would very much like to meet with the Conservation Commission to discuss their goals and objectives and this project. I am generally available and could attend one of your regular meetings. I look forward to working with you and the Conservation Commission. Please contact me if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Ehrhard Frost
NHLPF # 103
Certified Ecoforester

Enclosures