

Enfield Conservation Meeting

July 1, 2010

Attending: Joan Fishman, Shirley Green, Dwight Marchetti, Alan Strickland, and Jeff Wells.
Visitors – Kurt Gotthardt.

Alan called the meeting to order at 7 :00.

June minutes: A motion was made by Alan to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Jeff, with Dwight abstaining, motion passed. One correction: NH Lakes received a grant to hire six teenagers from Mascoma and Lebanon High Schools. . . .

Old Business and Updates:

Bicknell Park: The switch to the new entrance to the Colette Trail has been completed and signage has been put into place. The Town has dropped off several loads of woodchips that need to be spread in the meadow. The Town gave the Commission a piece of culvert to cross one wet area and a length of road fabric to put down over the muddy area on the trail which Gary's group from his company has volunteered to do. Rob Godfrey recently bush-hogged the site. Payment of \$195 for 3 hours needs to be made. Dwight made a motion to pay this bill, Joan seconded, passed. Alan proposed to do this again at the end of the season. Dwight suggested evaluating the meadow in the fall. In the meantime we need to determine if we want a meadow effect that's more natural or mowed short grass and if we want to put in some picnic tables. Dwight made a motion to revisit this in Sept/Oct, Shirley seconded, passed.

Hardy Wetland Riverside Landing: Dwight and Alan put up signage on the landing site; Alan described the signs. Dwight returned to the site to make several adjustments to the signs. The land owner has placed a new picnic table on the site. The site is now operational and open to public. Dwight still has no answer regarding vehicle access to the site for maintenance. Alan will call about making a monthly visit.

Mud Pond: Alan called the Enfield Police to inform them that a vehicle had been driving on Mud Pond Road. This is currently a Class VI road with a weight limit. It is very scenic. New parking signs have not been put up yet. Can the classification be changed to a trail? This would need to go to a town meeting for a vote. With a change in classification from Class VI road to trail, the town could pursue a more aggressive approach to management such as wood chips and use restrictions. This could also be designate as a snow mobile trail. Alan believes the entire road is in Enfield but there could be a portion in Canaan. Dwight made a motion that ECC is in favor of supporting changing Mud Pond from a Class VI road to a town trail with trail use set by the town, seconded by Shirley, passed.

Cole Pond: Craig Sandborn says that the water bars on the Cole Pond Trail on Fish & Game land have silted in and need to be cleaned. ECC does not want to be involved officially in maintaining the trail since ECC has no obligation to do this. Dwight made a motion to table the trail maintenance, Alan seconded, passed. Individuals can volunteer to maintain the trail.

User Conflicts on Trails: This is a continued discussion on horse use on the Colette Trail, town portion.

Dwight – The town has an easement with Everett Portrass so he cannot close off the portion of the trail on his property. He contacted local conservation commissions regarding their policies on trail use. The Town of Hanover has management guidelines for all trails that are reassessed annually. No horses are allowed except on Class VI roads, no motorized vehicles allowed, trail bikes are allowed, and rules are posted at trailheads. The Town of Lebanon allows mountain bikes on certain trails, 2 trails allow horses, and no motorized bikes are allowed. The trails that do allow horses are wide and high and these trails are shut down if they see erosion problems. Lebanon's website indicates where the trails are, provides descriptions, including what is visible from the trail, rates the trail for difficulty, and describes allowed usage.

Enfield has the Collette, Bicknell Brook, and Suki Marsh trails. We should establish a website for town trails, possibly to include other sites we maintain, like the Hardy Wetlands Riverside Landing. The Commissions doesn't have the authority to set the use, but we need to provide guidance to the Town as to use. For liability reasons, we should only have trails on private property if we have an easement. Part of the Suki Marsh trail is on private property with no easement. Jeff made a motion for Dwight to talk to Steve on behalf of the commission regarding trail usage, Alan seconded. Two issues were brought up: who makes the regulations and who enforces. Jeff amended the motion for Dwight to find out about the process to establish trail use regulations, Shirley seconded, passed. We will invite Upper Valley Trails Alliance to the next meeting and each member should come with use ideas for each trail and ideas for a Town trails website.

Citizens Forum: Kurt Gotthardt is in favor of reclassifying Mud Pond Road to a trail. The RSAs under roads lists two types, A & B. One allows existing property owners to access their property and the other one prohibits all use of vehicles. We should check the regulations. Kurt asked, are horses currently allowed on the Bicknell Brook trail? Answer - not specifically allowed, not prohibited. Kurt is not in favor of allowing horses on the trail. The trail is not designed for horses; it's too narrow, too low, lots of wet areas, and erosion problems are made worse by horse tracks. He raised concern about the liability to the Town if there are conflicts between hikers and horses on the trail. Kurt commented on the open area - Bicknell Park. Do we want it to look like Huse Park or more like a nature preserve? It is his opinion that a nature preserve would be best for that area and suggested putting woodchips on picnic table areas. Kurt asked about the status of the snowmobile trail that was illegally cut. No one had any updates.

Correspondence: NH Dept. of Transportation, NH Route 4-A & Main Street. Permit by notification for Kristi Fenner for replacement of an existing retaining wall for erosion control on Crystal Lake. The wooden wall would be converted to a rock wall. Shirley will write a letter of appreciation to the Fenners for their care of the Lake by always complying with regulations and filing for permits. A motion was made by Shirley to approve the replacement of wall, Alan seconded, passed.

Intent to Cut: Dorothy Emerson, Map#40, Lot#12, Dorothy and Donald Langley, Map#8, Lot#38 & 54, and Terino on 4A, Map#8, Lot#15.

New Business: Update from Shirley regarding Phase II of Eastman Grant. Shirley has five different watershed ordinances as examples and is getting information on the process used, what worked, and what didn't work. There will be a draft of the watershed ordinances by the next meeting. A committee has been formed – Shirley, Steve Schneider, and Dwight for now. The town planner and someone from the Select board will be added after the ordinances are written. We have enough data to proceed and use as a basis for educational materials. We will also request supporting letters for the ordinances from various agencies.

Mascoma Boat Launch - Dwight talked to Steve Schneider and town selectman about extending the apron boat launch by the Shaker Bridge. The Town is reluctant to do any work there yet due to the bridge project underway.

Corrections are needed to the ECC website as to where the ECC meets. Susan will ask the Town to change.

Upcoming Events:

Bicknell Park workday on Saturday? No, not this Saturday. Gary's company's planned work day - no update.

A motion was made by Dwight to adjourn, seconded by Jeff, passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan K. Wells, secretary