

Enfield Conservation Meeting

August 5, 2010

Attending: Joan Fishman, Gary Gaudette, Shirley Green, Sue Hagerman, Dwight Marchetti, Alan Strickland, and Jeff Wells. Also attending Steve Schneider, Town of Enfield.

Alan called the meeting to order at 7 :00.

July minutes: A motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Gary, seconded by Jeff, motion passed, with Sue abstaining. Corrections – change the word sight to site and regarding user conflicts on trails, the UVLT doesn't have the easement, the Town does.

Old Business and Updates:

Bicknell Park: The culvert has been installed and several loads of chips spread. The Town has dropped off 6 new loads of chips in anticipation of the scheduled work day on Friday, August 6, 2010. Four people from Gary's company are coming to work on fixing the muddy area on the upper loop. Alan expressed the ECC's appreciation to the Town for providing the road fabric and dropping off the chips.

Hardy Wetland Riverside Landing: Dwight spoke to Mr. Powers and made a site visit. He found nothing unusual and checked the bank, finding no debris. The location of the owner's fire ring is in question. Someone might think they can have a fire on the landing, but they can't.

Bicknell Trail – illegally cut snowmobile trail: Alan and Jeff walked the trail that was cut illegally. It is not obvious this time of year but it goes through numerous wet areas. It might be obvious in the winter with the snow cover. It is not necessary to close it off right now but we should check again in the winter to see if we need to close it off and add no snowmobile signs if necessary.

Mud Pond: The new parking signs have not been put up yet. The Town hasn't had any more complaints from the neighbors.

Choosing alternates to serve on the commission: No one has been approached yet. A discussion followed about teleconferencing when a member is away.

Eastman Grant mailing: The NH Lakes books were purchased for 50 cents each. Shirley will write a thank you note and Steve will sign and send.

User conflicts on trails: Continued discussion on horse use on Colette Trail, Town portion. Invited guests are John Taylor from Upper Valley Trail Alliance (UVTA), and Peter Helm from Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT).

Peter Helm - The UVLT holds the easements for two out of the three trails managed by the Town of Enfield. These easements state non-motorized pedestrian use only to include hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing. To change the use or add other uses on the Collette Trail would require the consent of both the grantor & grantee. The Poitras easement (150 feet of trail) also states pedestrian (on feet) access only but it doesn't specifically allow or disallow horses so the owner could allow horses on this section. If the UVLT notices damage due to other than pedestrian use it could ask for the use to stop or for

improvements to be made to the trail in order to handle this type of use. The Bicknell Forest Trail (loop) states non-commercial, non-motorized use. The Town, as landowners, could allow horses, and any trail damage due to this change in use would be handled the same as the Poitras easement.

John Taylor (UVTA) brought materials from (1) US Forest service on minimizing impact of horses on trails depending on the soil makeup of the trail; (2) equestrian trail guidelines, which include a graph of how much pressure common users of trails put on a trail - a horse puts more pressure than a car. A horse trail needs to be at least 5 feet wide for horse & rider (no trees in this space but can have ferns and other undergrowth), 10 feet high, and not more than a 10% grade, with enough space to share with pedestrians; (3) US Forest service guide book for horse trails; (4) VT trails guidelines for horse trails. If the trails are not designed for horses, more maintenance would be needed which could be done by an equestrian group, but there would still be safety issues. John encouraged the Commission to develop horse trails that are built appropriately. The trails, as they currently are should not have horse use on them in damp conditions. Alan asked John if he would allow horses generally on the trails as they are now. John's reply was no, not at this time; changes would have to be made to the trails. John was asked if there are any regulations on trail distance from water sources. No, but the manure should not be left on the trail – some trails require it to be packed out. Kluge Road property owners are currently working with the UVTA to open their land for public use, including horses. White Mt. Nat'l Forest allows horses, but most of the trails are narrow, steep, rough, have bridge issues, and low height clearance. The Appalachian Trail doesn't allow horses, just foot travel only, with a few exceptions. Because of the weight issue and therefore greater erosion, trails must be built to different standards to allow horses. If not built correctly, trails with horse use are harder to maintain.

The three trails managed by the Town are: Collette, Bicknell (loop), and Suki Marsh. ECC is open to finding alternative trails for other uses and is willing to work with other interested parties to establish these trails. ECC would lay out the trails, but other interest parties would have to develop the trails and maintain them. The Town's Class VI roads are available to alternative uses.

Dwight asked who has the authority to enforce trail use. Steve did not have the answer but will find out. Steve commented that the ECC is the expert and should make a recommendation to the Town as to use. Alan commented that there is very little evidence of horse damage as of today although there are quite a few manure droppings. Dwight commented that this is not just a horse issue. Sue commented that the trails were not built for horses, vehicles, mountain bikes, etc., but were built for pedestrian traffic only. Sue made the following motion regarding the ECCs recommendation to the Town as to the use of Town managed trails, seconded by Dwight, passed. Dwight recommended that the use restrictions be put into place by October 1st or as soon as we can put them into place.

Motion:

Whereas the Town of Enfield has provided trails within the town, which the Enfield Conservation Commission (ECC) believes were intended for pedestrian use only, based on the narrow width of the trails, low head clearance, and numerous wet areas and stream crossings thereon, the ECC recommends that each of the Town managed trails (the Suki Marsh Trail, the Bicknell Brook Loop, and the Collette Trail) be designated by appropriate signage as Non-Motorized Pedestrian Trail Only, to exclude all motorized vehicles, bikes, and horses.

Citizens Forum:

Anne & Richard Corr: The ECC has been asked to sign their application for a dock permit for their dock on property leased from the State on Mascoma Lake. The original dock was there since 1945 with no permit required. The Corrs purchased the property in 2005. New legislation requires a dock permit if the dock is on leased land, but the shape of the new dock (built in 2006) which exactly replicates the shape of the original dock doesn't meet the state allowance as it is a small dock with the wrong dimensions. The ECC's vote to approve and sign the application will expedite the permit. Dwight made a motion for Alan to sign the application, seconded by Gary, and passed.

New Business:

Spectacle Pond Violation: Dwight received a call from a citizen regarding a violation at Spectacle Pond/Graham Road. Someone built a road, cleaned out undergrowth, and left a pile of sand & gravel at the water's edge. Dwight visited the site and in addition found 2 stakes in the water, possibly in anticipation of extending the road. Phil Neeley was contacted to document the violation, take photos, and send a report to DES. On Dwight's second visit the pile of sand was spread out into the water and on the third visit, another pile of sand was found. Dwight contacted Phil again. Dwight called DES on July 26th, as a member of the ECC, and talked to Chris Brison (DES) who has the information but has not been able to follow up with the Town. He indicated he was very busy but would contact the Town at some point. The next step could be a letter to DES from ECC but we will wait for another update at the September meeting. Having Town wetland ordinances will help in future situations like this. The Town can enforce and require a permit.

Lake Sunapee Planning Commission is working with the EPA and Connecticut River Watershed and would like to come to the September meeting to describe the work being done, find out what are we doing, offer technical assistance, and find out how they can assist us to implement our work. Steve will call to invite them.

NH Lakes award: Glyn and Shirley Green were given an award recently for exemplary stewardship of NH lakes. Congratulations to Glyn and Shirley.

Upcoming Events:

Friday, August 6, 2010 8:00am to noon, work day at Bicknell Park with volunteers from Gary Gaudette's company plus any others who are able to attend.

[Due to time constraints, these items were not reviewed and/or tabled until the next meeting:](#)

Phase II of Eastman grant: An update for Shirley.//// new alternate?/// send out to the members by e-mail – preliminary draft – discuss fully at next meeting or add a second meeting before Oct meeting. Needs to be Oct/Nov to planning board or could be presented by petition. Shirley will send draft of new ordinances out to members before the Sept. meeting so they can be read ahead of time.

Correspondence: Lynn Peterson, Map#21, Lot#36-1, Shoreland Impact Permit, ///// Allison and Mark Duato, Map#49, Lot#6, Shoreland application///////// DES public hearing in Concord 8/13/10 in regard

to work to be done on Shaker Bridge area.//////// DES Acting Rivers Coordinator and the River Management Advisory Committee will hold a public hearing in Lebanon, 8/5/10 to receive comments on the nomination of the Mascoma River for the Rivers Management and Protection Program.

Intent to Cut: Esser, Map#9, Lot#62,//////// Emery, Map#13, Lot#25

ADJOURN at 8:45: A motion to adjourn was made by Alan, second by Sue, and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan K. Wells, secretary