

May 1, 2014

Present: Alan Strickland, Gary Gaudette, Shirley Green, Sue Hagerman, Dwight Marchetti, Steve Schneider, Jeanine King

Call meeting to order at: 7:01

Review of April minutes: Motion to accept; all in favor with one abstain

Discussion of Board members: Lost two; Jeanine an alternate; the SelectBoard will discuss at next meeting

Guest Speaker: Nick Coates, Executive Director of NH Association of Conservation Commissions will talk about grants for the water quality study and forest inventory, and will be a resource for the Commission in accomplishing other goals.

Used to work as Regional Planner. Website: www.nhacc.org. Phone: 224-7867. Email: nicholascoates@nhacc.org. Discussed bill that sought to eliminate Conservation Commissions. Bills were killed. Positive bills include Senate Bill #388 looking to increase funds for LCHIP; Also a bill that is a constitutional amendment that would make it illegal to raid dedicated funds. Advocacy alerts: yes but carefully. Discussed towns that received funding requests for conservation matters. New person in office will focus on education projects, including more outreach. Conservation Commissions are losing members. In relation to requests, fact-based arguments get more acceptance. Shirley described the grant we are looking for in relation to a water quality study. He suggested Eric Williams. Shirley said she spoke with him recently. LCHIP round open currently. Front page of website for NHCC has NRCS grants information. Nick talked about a partnership for farming to research sustainability.

Correspondence:

Call from private citizen re concern about the ditching of Stony Brook, Exit 15. He would like the Commission to look into the matter, and has also called Tom Dakai of Fish & Game.

Dwight suggests that phone calls like this be answered with personal contact and questions. Alan will follow-up. Nick Coates gave input that we document everything, write letter to DES to start file. Can also discuss with police department. Don't include name of caller in letter.

Telephone call from private citizen with concerns about Core property on Rail Trail, and cutting of brush around a wetland, within shore line 50ft limit.

Alan drew map of area showing proximity to shoreline based on investigation. He will contact the caller when he receives the results of the site investigation by DES. Grid system was used to determine whether or not there was a violation.

New Business:

Old Home Days: Treasure Hunt Hike proposed by the Recreation Department for Old Home Days.

Suggested site is up at the reservoir. Dwight recalled discussion by Selectmen about issue of liability with regards to activities on town land. He suggests we inquire with them. Steve added that town property is covered for liability, but he agrees with notifying the Selectmen. He doesn't recommend using this area as it is not currently used as a public recreation area. The issue could be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Two issues: one is creating a public site, and the other is agreeing to have an activity. The activity would be a combined recreation and Conservation Commission venture. The question is where. Sue suggested the Bicknell Brook Trail. This will be considered.

Site visit to Enfield Reservoir with Jim Taylor, Canaan Conservation Commission and Mascoma Watershed Council: Alan proposes a visit this summer. Steve agreed to participate. A date will be set for June or July.

Introduction of private citizens attending meeting: New to Enfield; learning about conservation issues in town. Also other citizens visiting meeting.

Alan noticed that cable is broken at parking lot at Bicknell Brook; needs replacement.

Colette Trails on Grafton Pond Road: discussion about getting permission before cutting trail.

Wildlife Observations: Moose tracks crossing Smith Pond Brook, Lakeview
Four Loons on north end of Mascoma Lake, report by Sue of 2 – 3 bears on her porch, great blue on George Pond, first wood thrush call; sightings of over 100 deer by Dwight.

Question re grant application to Moose Plate Grants: missed deadline, but will try again for this year.

Question re Shirley's Crystal Lake Water Quality Chart: Dwight made observations about the alkalinity and phosphorous levels. Why so high? Shirley pointed out explanations on chart. Rain can affect levels and also polluted runoff and erosion. She added that the Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Storm water Management went out.

Motion to Adjourn; Seconded; Meeting Adjourned at 8:12