

Fracestown Conservation Commission  
Fracestown, NH  
Proposed Minutes

August 6, 2012- 7:30PM at town office meeting room

Members present; Betsy Hardwick, Jenna McClary, BJ Carbee, Don Crooker, Kris Holmes, Don Shuffleton

Meeting called to order at 7:33PM

**New Business-**

Jennifer Shultis spoke on behalf of the trail race being held Saturday Aug 18<sup>th</sup> on Crotched Mt. trails. There will be 2 races, a 5K held all in Greenfield, and a ½ marathon which would involve trails in the Crotched Mt Town Forest in Fracestown. She asked permission to use the trails in the Town Forest for this race. She stated that volunteers will be manning the course during the race, no permanent markers or modifications would be done to the trails, and any temporary markers will be removed within a few hours after the conclusion of the race. Shultis stated that their group has an insurance policy which covers all landowners involved in trails used on the race course. There was discussion about how to pinpoint a location on the course should an emergency occur. It was decided they would use a map of our trail system to make communication of locations more accurate. The board gave approval for use of the trails for this race.

Michael Redmond gave an explanation of the recent problem which has occurred regarding the Forest Legacy Funds which were expected to be distributed for the Crotched Mt easement. The funds are routed from the Federal level, to the State level and then to the organization or individual for the project involved. The funds for the CM easement have been stalled at the State level. Redmond is encouraging local committees to endorse the CM easement project because of the positive environmental, recreational and economic benefits of this easement. The board unanimously supported drafting a letter stating that Fr ConCom was in support of this project.

Avery Brook/Miller Project- There is a 10 acre parcel at the end of Journey's End Rd which the town voted in favor of putting into easement several years ago. It contains a Black Gum swamp. This land abuts and would protect the Miller land. These 10 acres could be used as a match for ARM Grant for the Miller project. Barry Wicklow spoke in favor of this project and is working on

ARM Grant and trying to show that the Miller property would be part of a larger block of land with close proximity to high wildlife support area and would also protect large wetlands.

Brennan Brook Project/ Schott land- This would protect land within 6000 acres of unfragmented wildlife area at the headwaters of Brennan Brook and also contains Brennan Falls. PLC and FLT are currently researching possible grants for this project and are asking for our support. FLT would be the owner and PLC would be the easement holder. Barry Wicklow spoke in support of this project explaining that there is a study area for brook trout and a lot of spawning going on in Brennan Brook. Brennan Brook is also low on the sensitivity scale to environmental warming and thus provides a natural protected area for fish most sensitive to fluctuations due to the environmental warming trend. He also spoke of the 'Spring Salamander' which has been found in the northern area of this property and is the only one on record for this watershed area. The Scarlet Tanager and Veery are found in the interior of this parcel which is significant as these species are in decline. Historically, the History of Frankestown contains a paragraph about people walking from town up to this area to fish for trout. The board voted 'all in favor' to pledge up to \$12,000 for the Brennan Brook Project.

#### **Other Business-**

Jenna McClary brought her new bat detector which has GPS, and a microphone with more sensitivity levels. This detector is being used for a study of the bat population change due to 'white nose syndrome'. This detector picks up little brown bats. Both the Little Brown Bats and the Big Brown Bats are most affected by 'white nose syndrome' as they are 'cave dwellers'. She reported detecting 13 bats in Rindge and 3 bats in Frankestown in recent surveys.

#### **Minutes-**

Minutes for June 4, 2012 were approved as amended.

Crooker motioned to adjourn, Shuffleton seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:50PM