

Fracestown Conservation Commission

Fracestown, NH

Approved Minutes

December 1, 2014

Members present: Kelly Marshall, Scot Heath, Kris Holmes, Betsy Hardwick, Polly Freese, Don Crooker

Meeting came to order 7:30PM

New Business

Mowing Invoice- Scott Carbee mowed the crabapple field and also moved the downed tree at the intersection. He sent a bill for \$552.50 Scot Heath made a motion to pay the \$552.50 from the Conservation fund. Don C 2nd. All in favor.

The crabapple field has mostly weeds (mainly cinquefoil) growing in it at this time. Betsy H noted that the purpose of the field was to keep it open for birds and turkeys that need insects for food. Those weedy type grasses attract insects which helps this purpose. It is not important to have a lush hay field. Scott Carbee had noted that it could be over-seeded to provide grasses for deer and rabbits and we could lime it to get rid of the cinquefoil. We do not have to make a decision now. Don C asked if it would be beneficial to analyze the soil. Betsy said soil analysis is not necessary as we know that the soil has not improved. We will discuss the over-seeding possibility in the spring, see what the budget is like and whether we want to lime and/or over-seed. There was also discussion about getting the mowing done sooner, and keep to a more regular schedule.

Youth projects- Kelly M has followed up with Conval HS about getting students involved in Conservation projects. She has left a message with Dana Wood an environmental science teacher and woodworking teacher and is waiting to hear back from him. She also spoke with the IT teacher at Great Brook who is interested in having students build duck boxes for us. They would just need the dimensions for the boxes. The HS already does an Envirothon competition. They need volunteers to do trout study programs in the schools. Community service hours could be earned doing trail work. Bridging students with conservation/environmental projects help get them interested and involved and increase stewardship in the community through a ripple effect. The elementary students have planted wildflower gardens. Setting up game cameras to document wildlife could be a good project. It is important to make the students feel like they are making a difference in their communities.

Barry Wicklow might be a good source for getting students involved in water quality programs/projects.

Don C will speak with Harris Center educators, who work in the school system, about getting students involved.

Winter Hikes- The annual full moon hike would fall either early Feb or early March, both are mid week. Betsy will look at moon rising times to find a Saturday near the full moon that would work best. We also need to find a host for after the hike. Possible hosts that could be asked include Henry and Linda Kunhardt, George Sanderson, Jan Hicks, Abigail, and Gerri Bernstein.

Betsy will also check with Ben Haubrich about doing a winter tracking hike.

Old Business

Swift Corwin- sent memorandum of understanding to leave landing in good or better condition when he is finished logging and also proof of insurance.

Trapping- Betsy has not heard back from Stephen Leavitt. He needs to come in with a permission slip from the state (with the tax map and lot number of area he will be using for trapping) for Betsy to sign

New trail hike- 12 people attended and it was a great hike.

Annual monitoring- Kris and Kelly have completed their monitoring.

Work Day in CM forest- all projects were completed successfully, signs were replaced on Bullard Hill, area around kiosk cleaned up, crabapple trees pruned and fertilized and the rotted boardwalk was removed. Members and others who participated were Kelly and Paul Marshall, Scot Heath and his grandson, Betsy Hardwick, Jeff Tarr, Kris Holmes, and George Sanderson.

Bridge on the new trail to Dinsmore will need to be worked on in the spring

Invasive Species Program- Betsy needs to put the description of location on each photo before they are sent to Doug Cygan. She said this will be done by January.

Linda Kunhardt- working on project to manage invasives ie: autumn olive and remove some pine trees without harming the rare flower species in the area on CM. She has sent in paperwork to the state, but it may take up to a year to hear back.

Announcements

Kris noted that the time for the Conservation Commission meeting listed in the Frankestown News is for 7PM not 7:30PM. Betsy said Sarah Pyle had been notified about this and was asked to correct the time.

The Bear Program by Ben Kilham was attended by about 100 people. It was not really geared for those younger than HS, but was very informative.

Kelly suggested that for a hands on program, the kids might be interested in Owls. The Audubon society does an owl program and Squam Lake also does one.

Betsy suggested Nancy Cowan from Deering who does falconry and rehabilitation. She will be retiring soon so we might want to try to get her to come for a program in the near future.

Don C checked with Mike Terrian about putting markers on Shannons Trail from the rehab and Mike said OK so Kelly will install them.

Nick Coates, executive director of NHACC wants to attend our January meeting.

New trail to Dinsmore from Old County Rd South- in the past we have asked the Hwy Dept. to plow out a small parking area. The board agreed to ask the Hwy Dept. to plow out an area to park a couple cars in the new trailhead parking area.

Minutes

Minutes from October 6th 2014, a couple of mis-spellings were corrected. Polly motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Don C 2nd and all accepted as amended.

Minutes from November 3rd 2014, Scott Corwin was corrected to read Swift Corwin. Polly motioned to accept minutes as amended. Heath 2nd and all accepted as amended.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Kris, Don C 2nd. Meeting adjourned 8:37PM