

Fracestown Conservation Commission

Fracestown, NH

Approved Minutes

March 3, 2014

Members present: Don Shuffleton, Kris Holmes, Betsy Hardwick, Scott Heath, BJ Carbee, Polly Freese

Other attendees: Judy Miller, Charlie & Sarah Pyle, Ben and Robin Haubrich, Abigail Arnold, Larry Ames, Jeff Tarr, Paula Hunter, Chris Rogers, Jan Hicks, Herb & Rosa Bromberg, Barry Wicklow, John Arnold, Martine Bohnsack, Len & Meredith Allen, Brad Howell, Dennis Calcutt and other members of the community.

Meeting came to order at 7:33PM

Public Hearing

Hardwick informed everyone in attendance that notification for this hearing had been posted at the Post Office, Town Website and in the Monadnock Ledger Transcript.

First order of business- The Schott/Brennan Brook Project- Discussion and vote on whether Fracestown Conservation Commission will hold the executive interest in the Schott Property Maps/Lots 5.32 5.32.1 5.33 5.34 This 150 acre parcel includes Brennan Falls. Fracestown ConCom has pledged \$20,000 towards this project and the project has also been approved to receive an LCHIP grant.

Dennis Calcutt spoke in favor of this project.

Martine Bohnsack spoke in favor of the project, discussing the biological standpoint that it contains headwaters to the Piscataquog and also that it can be accessed from town via Oak Hill Rd.

Chris Rogers spoke in favor of the project.

Abigail Arnold spoke in favor of the project agreeing that it was close to town and also that it has been a popular hiking area for local residents.

Paula Hunter spoke in favor of the project and pointed out that the Schotts have been supportive of the town through the years and this project would show respect for them.

Barry Wicklow spoke in support of the project. He stated that it is important to protect unfragmented areas for wildlife and in addition, it is an important birding area. He noted that the Hooded Merganser has been seen in this area.

Len Allen asked for clarification of accessibility to the area.

Ben Haubrich spoke in support of the project and added that the area was easily accessible via Bullard Hill Road. He also noted that there was grant money available which will be used for trails and signage.

Sarah Pyle spoke in favor of the project.

Polly Freese asked for the total number of acres currently protected by easement in Frankestown. Hardwick stated that the charts in the NRI are currently being corrected and when we have the final edit completed we will have an accurate number.

Hardwick made a motion that Frankestown Conservation Commission donate \$20,000 for executory interest in Maps/Lots 5.32 5.32.1 5.33 5.34 (The primary easement holder will be Piscataquog Land Trust) Scott Heath seconded. The board voted all in favor.

Second order of business- Discussion and vote on whether Frankestown Conservation Commission will expend \$7,500.00 to purchase access and trail easement through Map/Lot 8.55 the Herman Miller property from Old County Road North to the Dinsmore property. This would provide a nicer access to the Dinsmore property and would provide a shorter access in the event of a timber harvest. The access from the Crotched Mountain Spa golf course would be kept in addition to this new access. FLT will own the Herman Miller property and LCHIP will hold the executory interest.

Abigail Arnold spoke in favor of this project. She stated that this would be a memorial to Herman and Dottie Miller. This property has been in the Miller family for over 100 years.

Jan Hicks spoke in favor of the project and pointed out the beauty of the property.

Dennis Calcutt spoke in favor of the property. He stated that it is important to create resources in town for exercise and recreation and to increase the beauty of the town. He extended a thank you to the board of ConCom.

Larry Ames spoke in favor of the project and spoke of the beauty of the property.

Brad Howell commended everyone involved in making the project happen and praised the conservation ethic of the town.

Scott Heath thanked FLT for their hard work in getting the grants to complete the project.

Abigail Arnold stated that it takes the co-operation of all the organizations to make the projects happen.

Betsy Hardwick made a motion to expend \$7,500 for an access easement from Old County Road North through Map/Lot 8.55 providing access to the Dinsmore Property. Scott Heath seconded. The board voted All in Favor.

Public Hearing concluded and regular ConCom meeting began.

New Business- Regional Planning commission Preference- The board discussed options for regional planning commission membership. Fresse stated she prefers Southern Planning Commission. Hardwick and Heath agreed. The board agreed to go with Southern Planning commission.

Old Business-

Trail Issues- Link Bridge- We are still working on getting the poles needed for the bridge repair.

NRI Conservation Plan Draft- Ben Haubrich is still working on correcting the tables in the report. Hardwick is working on final edits and Pete Throop is working on correcting charts and graphs.

Hikes and Educational Events- We will wait until after April to schedule any events. Hardwick stated that it does not take a lot of lead time to schedule a program with Fish & Game.

Minutes- Hardwick motioned to approve minutes of 2-3-14 as written. Heath seconded. Minutes were approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32PM

Respectfully submitted, Kris Holmes