

Francestown Conservation Commission

Francestown, NH

Approved Minutes

November 3, 2014

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

Meeting came to order 7:30 PM

New Business

Swift Corwin- Logging access off Shattuck Pond Rd- Swift Corwin came to request access for logging he has been doing on the Arnold property. He would like permission to access an area on Arnold's property by means of Shattuck Pond Rd on the Shattuck easement and use the existing landing. Betsy requested a letter stating that any damage to the area used would be repaired to its original condition. Scot Heath made a motion that Swift Corwin be allowed access to the Arnold property through the Shattuck Town Forest and to use the existing landing in the Shattuck TF for Arnold's logging and requested a letter stating that the land would be left in equal condition at the end of the project as when it was started. Crooker seconded the motion. Hardwick recused from the vote. All other board members present voted in favor.

Trapping-Stephen Leavitt- Stephen came before the board to request permission to trap beaver in the Shattuck and Dinsmore areas again and also would like to trap Fischer in CM forest this year. He gave a brief review of his methods of trapping for board members who were not present last year when he came to request permission. The board granted permission unanimously.

Hike new Trail through Herman Miller Forest- The hike is scheduled for Sunday Nov 16th at 1PM

Events/Programs- The Joan Hanchett Nature Series will host a lecture on Black Bears by Ben Kilham at the Francestown Elementary school on Friday November 14th 7:00-8:30PM

Annual Monitoring- Kris has sent out the letters informing easement property owners of the annual monitoring taking place during the month of November. Board members will conduct monitoring walks on the following properties during this time:

CM Town Forest and Shattuck Town Forest (LCHIP) & Murray easement- Betsy Hardwick

Varnum, Humphrey and Hill easements- Scot Heath Note: Steve Walker from the office of energy and planning has requested boundary markers installed on the Hill easement which Scot volunteered to do.

Dunscombe- Don Crooker

Whiting Brook- Kris Holmes

Bicknell- Don Shuffleton

Avery- Kelly Marshall

Kelly Marshall and George Sanderson will accompany Betsy or Scot on one of their assigned easements to learn how to do a monitoring walk

Trail Work-

Scot's Trail- Ben and Robin Haubrich are going to put up trail markers installed with aluminum nails for safety. If the trees need to be cut in the future, chain saws and saws at the mills will go through the aluminum instead of causing kick back or damage to the saws.

Kelly reported that the trail from CM rehab to the CM Town Forest in Frankestown needs more markers. Crooker said CM rehab needs to be notified first and he will take care of that. Kelly volunteered to install the signs after permission from CM rehab is obtained.

Kris reported that the kiosk in the Dinsmore area is down. Betsy will check on that.

Kelly attended NHCC conference and reported on a class she took about involving school kids in trail work projects. Some CC use students to help with trail work and in turn the students get credit for community service hours. Kelly suggested we ask HS students if they are interested in helping with trail work. There was discussion about the necessary supervision and past experiences in trying to do this.

Old Business

Invasive Species program follow up- Doug Cygan had requested photos of the knotweed on Rt 47 to accompany the request for treatment. Betsy has taken photos and will send them to him with the request for treatment.

CM Town Forest- We need to replace/repair/ remove fencing around the crabapple trees, prune dead branches and fertilize. We also need to remove the old rotted boardwalk beyond the crabapple field. A work day is planned for the weekend of November 8th-9th. Betsy will send an e-mail to notify the board as to which day we will do this work.

Crooker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Heath seconded. Meeting adjourned 8:45PM

Respectfully submitted, Kris Holmes