

Fracestown Conservation Commission

Fracestown, NH

Approved Minutes

March 2, 2015

Members present: Don Shuffleton, Kris Holmes, Scot Heath, Kelly Marshall, Betsy Hardwick, George Sanderson, B J Carbee, Polly Freese

Meeting came to order 7:35 PM

Minutes- Freese motioned to accept minutes from January 5, 2015 as written. Heath 2nd. Minutes approved as written

New Business-

Potential snowmobile trail in Crotched Mt Town Forest- Ben Hardwick would like to establish a snowmobile trail which would go up Old Mt Rd/Bullard Hill Rd and over to Scot's Trail. It would be a loop trail. As this trail would be maintained, it would help keep an emergency access road open. Shuffleton questioned whether this trail could be used by snowmobiles before December 15th. Heath said there is a State Law which says it cannot be used before December 15th. Hardwick stated that as it would be on town land, we could set dates as to when this trail could be used. Also we would want it to be taken over by a club and maintained. Heath made a motion that this proposed loop trail could be used as a 'club trail', not before December 15th and with the stipulation that there is enough snow. Shuffleton 2nd. All in favor

Heath reported that the new snowmobile trail that goes by Tory Pines (Crotched Mountain Spa) has created a lot of new business for the restaurant.

Freese suggested that trails up to the Inn at Crotched Mountain be maintained. She noted that last weekend 4 riders ended up at the Inn and stayed overnight. John and Rose Perry might welcome the business from maintained trails.

Seedlings- It was agreed to continue distributing seedlings to the elementary school. Hardwick will order whatever is available. She noted the selection is already limited.

Earth Day- We will put out blue bags for roadside cleanup at the usual places, library, post office and town offices. As there is still a lot of snow on the ground, we will wait until closer to clean up time to put out notification posters. Marshall recommended we distribute blue bags to the elementary school students as well.

Location for Interpretive Trail- Dana Woods from Conval is interested in having his class help us lay out an interpretive trail. Heath suggested the Lord Forest as a location, but then we decided there might not be enough to look at there. There was discussion about the Kampe property on Old County Rd North. This property includes a wetland and there might be some interesting things on that property. The Wharton Town forest off Rt 47 has vernal pools, but may not have a lot of diversity. There was a brief discussion about the strip along Collins Brook with the millsite, but it was decided that was too small an area. The Kampe property seems like the best potential site.

Old Business-

Trapping- Stephen Leavitt- Stephen is not trapping this year as the fur market has crashed.

Duck Boxes- Members were unable to do the annual duck box cleaning/survey as there was too much snow and it was too cold. Possible future work dates are March 22nd or 29th.

Annual Monitoring- Some reports still need to be filled out.

Youth Projects Progress- Marshall met with Scott Jenkins. He is willing to build a kiosk, bluebird boxes, duck boxes and bat houses. He will be retiring the end of this year, but may be working with elementary school students after school. He could start the duck boxes now and have them available by the end of March for us to use on our work day and also for sale to the public for anyone who has an area on their property they would like to install one. He is proposing building 12-15 duck boxes, 12-16 bat houses and 9 bluebird houses. The board discussed holding a program at night to educate the public about the wood duck, how to install the duck boxes and have some for sale at the program. The same could be done for bats/bat houses and bluebirds/ bluebird houses. Scott will purchase the materials for these projects and give us a receipt for his expenses. We will pay from our education and outreach fund.

Hikes/Programs- The tracking hike and full moon hike had to be cancelled due to the weather.

Announcements-

Freese informed board members that Cornell has a Live Cam watching a nest of owlets.

Hardwick noted that a request from DES for more information about the Juniper Hill and Woodward Hill bridges has been received.

Hardwick motioned to adjourn. Shuffleton 2nd.

Meeting adjourned 8:25PM

Respectfully submitted, Kris Holmes