

# Fracestown Conservation Commission

## Fracestown, NH

### Approved Minutes

January 5, 2015

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

Meeting came to order 7:34PM

#### **New Business**

Nicholas Coates, executive director of NHACC came to speak about NHACC and see what projects our conservation commission has been working on. Goals of NHACC are to have a conservation commission in every town and for every conservation commission to be a member of NHACC. Their main functions include- 1. Technical Assistance- they are always available for questions, have a You Tube channel and a website, with a special members section that ConCom members can access through individual log in. 2. Education-They run about 10 different educational sessions a year on various topics from wetlands, living with beavers, invasives and how to engage youth. 3. Lobbying- They sit on about 20 committees and monitor various proposed bills which relate to Conservation Commissions and conservation regulations. He finished up by asking questions of our commission about 'what makes a successful ConCom'.

1. Do we have a NRI? (Yes) And have we updated our NRI? (Yes)
2. Do we have a conservation plan? (Yes) And does the plan refer back to the town Master Plan? (Yes)
3. Does a percentage of the land use change go to ConCom? (Yes, 50% goes to ConCom)
4. Do we write grants and do fund raising for projects? (Yes)
5. Landowner outreach/education programs? (Yes)
6. Do we hold easements? (Yes)
7. Do we have a Town Forest? (Yes)
8. Do we have by-laws/ rules of procedure? (Yes) And do we have a conflict of interest policy? (We do not have this and Betsy has spoken with town counsel. The feeling was that conflict of interest was covered by State Law)
9. Do we have active members? (Yes)
10. Do we hold regular meetings? (Yes)

Potential snowmobile trails- Scot Heath made a request on behalf of the Hillsborough Night Riders. The club is trying to reclaim some old snowmobile trails, some of which come through the NW corner of town through the Dinsmore Parcel, through Tory Pines property, County Rd North up into Deering and on up into Weare. There was also a trail that went from the NE corner of town down to Greenfield which would go through Shattuck parcel and part of CM forest and uses a lot of class VI roads. The state covers insurance related to the snowmobile trails. In order for the trails to be reclaimed and used, a club needs to take responsibility for the trails ie: maintenance. Having the trails reclaimed and used again might help local businesses as people come through and stop for a meal etc. Polly F. made a motion to allow the snowmobile club to reclaim the old trails which go through the Town forests including Shattuck, Dinsmore and Farrington Rd areas. Scot Heath abstained from voting. All other members voted in favor.

### **Old Business**

Trapping- Stephen Leavitt- Betsy has signed his permission slip

Annual Monitoring- Shattuck has been completed and report was sent in. Don S. completed Bicknell easement and needs to write up the report.

Youth projects/programs to encourage engagement- Kelly M heard back from her contacts. Dana Wood would be very interested in helping to get students involved in some way. Scot Jenkins is willing to supervise students make duck boxes, signs or boxes to hold maps. He just needs the dimensions and materials. The GBS Industrial arts teacher could supervise construction of bird houses, duck boxes or maybe picnic tables. Board members will think about a list of things we could ask them to make.

Winter Hikes- Scot Heath has offered to host the group after the full moon snowshoe hike. We will do this hike in the Dinsmore area end of Feb/early March. Ben Haubrich is willing to do a tracking hike. He would rather not schedule it too far ahead of time as he needs to see what the snow conditions might be. It was decided it might be best to put up posters when this hike is scheduled. George will make posters for the P.O., library, and Town Office.

Duck boxes- We will try for the weekend of February 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. The 7<sup>th</sup> will be the first option and if weather is not good we will try for the 8<sup>th</sup>. Meet at noon at Farrington parking area.

Heath made a motion to accept minutes of December 1, 2014 as written. Freese 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

Holmes motion to adjourn. Freese 2<sup>nd</sup>. Adjourned 9:27 PM