

Fracestown Conservation Commission
Fracestown, NH
Approved Minutes

May 4, 2015

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

Meeting came to order 7:33PM

New Business- Taylor Properties- We have received a letter that the Board of Selectmen had been approached about 2 lots of land being offered to the town. One lot is being offered for purchase outright and the other is being offered in exchange for waiving the land use change tax bill. The Board of Selectmen has asked ConCom to review the properties and offer their opinion about the parcels of land. Discussion ensued about whether either of these properties could be beneficial to the town. It was decided that a site walk by ConCom board members should be done before any discussion about the merits of these properties. It was decided to meet May 8th at 5:30 PM to walk the properties, and it was also decided to hold a special meeting on May 11, 2015.

Garlic Mustard Challenge- Ellen Snyder contacted BJ Carbee with information about this invasive species. Carbee suggested we send out info via email or have information available at spots around town such as the library and town hall to educate the public about this plant. An article could also be placed in the Fracestown News. Hardwick added that it is best to pull this plant in May or June and if it is pulled over a 5 year period there is a good chance of eradicating it.

Old Business- Joan Hanchett Nature Series-Hardwick spoke with Ted Graham about how this series originated and had discussion with him about how the organization for these programs has broken down. Recently the library sponsored the Raptor program which should have been a Joan Hanchett Nature Series program. Ted has offered to head up the JH Nature Series and be a liaison between Carol at the library and other groups in town involved with the program, so that the series will continue on the way it was originally intended.

By-Laws- Hardwick has suggested a couple changes and will write up a draft of the changes for the board to review.

Duck Boxes/Wood Duck program- Scott Jenkins should have all the boxes- duck, bluebird and bat- completed by the end of the week. Hardwick is looking into speakers for programs about ducks. Marshall suggested Ducks Unlimited. Crooker suggested a backyard naturalist program and incorporate bluebird and bat houses for sale. Marshall commented that NH fish and Game is looking for people to help with a bat count in June. You can go online and sign up to help.

Lord Forest- Paul and Kelly Marshall, Kris Holmes and Betsy Hardwick cleaned up and marked the trail. Paul built a bridge over the brook. Marshall has put a call in to Dana Wood to see how they are going to proceed with the project, either by installing interpretive plaques along the trail, or numbering sites and having a brochure which provides information on the various sites. Short Term Conservation Plan- Hardwick added "engage youth in Conservation issues". The board agreed the draft looked good.

Seedlings- Hardwick got Ninebark and the seedlings will be distributed at the Elementary School at 2:45PM on Friday May 15th.

Annual Monitoring- A couple reports still need to be completed.

Plant ID Hike- Because of conflicts on May 16th with the Plant Sale etc, the hike has been moved to 10AM on May 17th. Sanderson has made up flyers and Carbee will email them out.

Other Business- Poor Farm Rd culvert- John McGee came in and spoke with the Selectmen. John and possibly Barry Wicklow are going to do some research and verify which species of fish are present in this area and whether a new culvert might be beneficial. If so, they will apply for a grant to replace the culvert with one which will allow for aquatic migration and improve handling of flood waters.

Logging at Fisher Hill Rd- Marshall asked whether there had been a follow up to this logging project. BJ Carbee said that Scott Carbee has been following up and apparently there was an amendment made to the timber report, but it is unknown what the report states. BJ Carbee will follow up on this. Scott Carbee's intention is to call the state regarding this operation.

Minutes of April 6, 2015-Heath made a motion to accept minutes as written. Freese 2nd. All in favor. Minutes accepted as written.

Marshall passed out a list of internet resources which were given out at the Saving Special Places conference.

Carbee asked if Hardwick had contacted Linda Kunhardt regarding Linda getting an invasive species certification as an employee of town. Status is not known at this time.

Crooker motioned to adjourn the meeting. Freese 2nd.

Meeting adjourned 8:44 PM

Respectfully submitted, Kris Holmes Clerk