

Fracestown Conservation Commission

Fracestown, NH

Approved Minutes

November 2, 2015

Members present: Shuffleton, Freese, Sanderson, Fitzgerald, Hardwick, Holmes, Heath, Marshall, Crooker

Meeting came to order 7: 30 PM

New Business-

Taft Septic setback variance- Earl Sandford came to speak about a proposed setback variance for a new septic system at the Taft property located at 215 New Boston Rd. The house was placed on the property around 1820 and the septic currently in use was installed before current regulations. The septic system is now failing. The state put in a culvert which drains into the leach field. New plans will divert the drainage away from the leach field and push back the septic about 15 feet away from the river. Due to the size and positioning of the property it is impossible to meet the current regulations to position the septic the required distance from the road, river and boundary lines. The board discussed the fact that it was better to have a septic system which functions properly rather than continue to have a failing septic system and felt all possible efforts had been made with the new plan to minimize environmental impact. Heath moved to recommend to the ZBA that the variance be approved. Freese 2nd. All in favor.

December meeting- Hardwick suggested that unless something urgent comes up, we will cancel the December meeting as it conflicts with the Budget meeting.

Minutes- Heath moved to accept minutes of October 5, 2015 as amended. Marshall 2nd. All in favor.

Notices and Announcements-

Hardwick informed the board that we have received notification from the new owners of the Howell property M6L72, that a permit to install a septic system for a single family 25,360 sq ft home has been approved by DES according to the Shoreland Protection Act.

Hardwick announced that there are new Wildlife Action Maps out on the Fish & Game website. There are more high ranking areas listed now.

Sanderson said that he had become aware of an 88 acre property in town that is listed in the highest ranking wildlife habitat priority area. He wondered if there was any way ConCom could purchase it. Heath suggested trying to get it into conservation easement instead. This property is currently in probate. Heath suggested a letter be sent from ConCom encouraging the owners to put the land into conservation easement. Sanderson offered to speak with the appropriate person(s) to discuss easements. Heath will try to look up the name of the executor.

Old Business-

JHN program series- Ted Graham will not be able to organize anything for this fall, but will try to schedule a program in January or February 2016.

Duck Boxes- Marshall is still working with the High School to see if they can get students involved. She suggested that pieces for the duck boxes could be pre-cut and then assembled at a workshop. Ducks Unlimited has plans on their website. Sanderson and Fitzgerald offered to cut the pieces. Participants could make a box to use on their property if they have a good location, or if not possibly donate the box for use in the Town Forest. We could do a workshop at the school as a community evening program on a Friday night in January 2016. Hardwick suggested that ConCom might consider paying for the materials.

Lord Forest- Paul, an 8th grade science teacher at GBS, is coming out tomorrow to look at the Quarry Trail. He is interested in having students work on an interpretive trail.

Annual Monitoring-Holmes reported that notification letters for our annual monitoring in the month of November were sent out October 16th, 2015.

Updated By-Laws-Crooker and Hardwick are working on it

Snowmobile Trail status-Heath said there was nothing new to report

New Programs-Hardwick suggested an Avery hike would be nice to do again, maybe in April 2016.

Other Business-

Fitzgerald suggested that Shane Hanchett might be interested in building duck boxes.

Freese asked if Carbee had made a report about sand dumped into Pleasant Pond. Hardwick reported that Carbee was still working on the report to DES re: sand spread down into the water on Pleasant Pond.

Freese made motion to Adjourn. Marshall 2nd. Meeting adjourned 8:37PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Holmes, Clerk