

Francestown Conservation Commission

Francestown, NH

Approved Minutes

January 4, 2016

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

Meeting came to order 7:40 PM

New Business-

Bobcat trapping/hunting letter to F&G Commission- Stoddard NH ConCom has asked Francestown ConCom to sign a letter in opposition to the proposed Bobcat trapping/hunting season. Shuffleton expressed his opposition to the letter as he is in favor of the season and if a letter was sent from the board, he wanted to be able to sign his name with a notation that he did not agree with opposing the bobcat season. The board discussed the matter and decided not to send a letter taking a stand as a board, but individuals could send letters pro or con on their own to F&G.

Winter events/hikes- Hardwick was approached by PLC/FLT to do a X-country ski hike on our property. ConCom will be listed as a co-sponsor for this event. It will be held in the Dinsmore area led by Ben Haubrich & Betsy Hardwick on January 31st at 1:30PM and will last about 2 hours.

A full moon hike was discussed and it was decided to try for Saturday February 20th in the Dinsmore area. Fitzgerald offered to host a gathering for refreshments after the hike.

Duck boxes clean out- The ice is not solid yet so we will postpone the clean out until February and see how the weather is at that time. Hardwick and Shuffleton will decide on a good day and email the board to let them know.

Notices and Announcements- Hardwick noted that Nick Coates of NHACC has moved on and Carol Andrews is now back acting as Interim Executive Director.

Minutes- Heath made a motion to approve the minutes of November 2, 2015 as written. Marshall 2nd. All in favor. Minutes approved as written.

Old Business-

Annual NHACC meeting report- Hardwick and Fitzgerald attended the meeting. Fitzgerald attended a farm conservation program which enlightened participants on the difficulties and lessons to learn about writing Agricultural easements. Hardwick attended a program on using the DES website efficiently and also a program about the updated Wildlife Action Plan. Hardwick picked up some new brochures from Taking Action for Wildlife, which would be available for us to get for handouts at programs in town. They are "Communities Take Action For Wildlife" and "Landowners Take Action For Wildlife".

JHN program series- Martine Bohnsack of FLT has been working on programs. F& G will do a bobcat program for free, but there is a mandatory 30 minute informative spiel on F& G which they do at the beginning of the program. All their programs have this mandatory 30 minute informative. It was decided that this might be ok for older audiences, but if kids attended, they would not be able to sit well through that part. Squam Lake was suggested as another source for programs.

Duck boxes replace old/new & wood duck program- We had discussed doing a 'field' educational program with F&G on duck box placement etc, but this would have to be done when there is solid ice. Hardwick reported that she has 2 duck boxes in her garage and will check to see if they are still usable for replacement boxes. Hardwick suggested that we have a workshop to build duck boxes and if we are not able to have an actual speaker, we could hand out informative brochures about the ducks and duck boxes. Hardwick will check with Martine Bohnsack to make sure this topic will not overlap with anything planned for the JHN series and Marshall will check with Harriet at the library to make sure we don't pick a date that will conflict with other programs.

Town Forest/ other school science projects- Marshall went out with the 8th grade teacher from Great Brook School to look at the Quarry Trail. They will try to do as much of the work/research for an interpretive trail at the school to avoid the difficulties and complications of bussing the students. It was decided to not do any projects in the Lord Forest.

Annual Monitoring reports- Hardwick has sent out report to LCHIP and Office of Energy and Planning for SPNHF. She also completed and turned in the monitoring report for the Stewart property easement and by meeting the December 31, 2015 deadline, we received an \$800 stewardship reimbursement. Heath will send in monitoring reports for Hill and Varnum properties. Carbee went out to the Murray property for the annual easement monitoring.

Marshall conducted the monitoring for the Avery property easement and Holmes conducted the monitoring for the Whiting Brook easement area.

Snowmobile trails status-Heath reported that Hillsborough Night Riders are requesting to build an additional short trail in the Dinsmore area which will go from the Main trail just beyond the ledge area to the bridge abutment to be able to go over to George Sanderson's property.

Updated By-Laws- Crooker is still working on formatting the material.

Hardwick motioned to adjourn. Heath 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Holmes, Clerk