

Francestown Conservation Commission

Francestown, NH

Approved Minutes

February 1, 2016

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

Members of public in attendance: Steve Ouelette

Meeting came to order 7:45PM

Minutes- Heath motioned to approve minutes of Jan 4, 2016 as written. Hardwick 2nd. All approved.

Notices and Announcements-

Steve Ouelette, resident of Bennington, NH, came before the board with a proposal for making a new trail on the skidder road off Joslin Rd. He stated that he has been hiking a lot of the trails and has carried his chainsaw with him and has been clearing some of the trails as he hikes. Hardwick stated she has a concern with liability and is not in favor of creating any new trails. Hunters use the land and they do not want any more trails in the area. The other issue is that this proposed area is an area that we timber harvest and we don't want to fragment the area. The board thanked Steve for his work in clearing the trails, but were in general agreement against creating any new trails at this time.

New Business-

Seedling Program- The board agreed to continue with the seedling program for the elementary school. Chokecherry will be the first choice for seedlings and if that is not available, elderberry will be second choice.

Milfoil warrant articles- There will be 2 warrant articles regarding milfoil this year. The first is to support monitors at Pleasant Pond for prevention. The second is for treatment of milfoil at Scobie at the cost of \$22,000 (\$13,200 taxation and \$8,800 grant). The treatment just manages the growth, does not eradicate the plant, but without any management the milfoil will continue to take over the area. The board will support the articles.

Earth Day/Roadside Cleanup- We will have roadside cleanup for a couple weeks towards the end of April, dates will depend on weather/snow melt conditions. Hardwick will check on the blue bag supply and will ask Carbee if she will do a poster for the event.

Storybook walk/library program- ConCom is willing to co-sponsor the program with the library. It was noted that in the past, some of the story boards were taken down, so the board will set up a rotating schedule to maintain the trail and make sure everything stays in place. It was also noted that the picnic table may need to be refurbished.

March meeting- There will be no meeting in March unless something important comes up.

Website update- Ben Haubrich has updated the Dinsmore map to include the access from Old County Rd North and it is now on the website. He has also updated the CM forest map and made search and rescue maps (for emergency personnel only) and these have been given to the Bennington and Frankestown Fire Departments.

Old Business-

Joan Hanchett Nature Program Series- There will be a program, March 18th at 7PM at the Fr. Elementary School on "Birds, Bats and Butterflies" by Ruth Axelon, a Coverts volunteer. Martine Bohnsack is handling publicity for the event and ConCom will offer to bring refreshments.

Winter Hikes- The moonlight hike will be held February 20th at 7PM. Jan Hicks will sponsor refreshments/gathering after the hike.

Duck Boxes cleaning/replace old/ workshop- Clean out of the duck boxes is postponed due to lack of ice to access them. Sanderson will get wood for new duck boxes and cut to right size pieces ready to assemble. Lisa Heath will work on making some boxes.

Interpretive Trail- No new updates.

Annual Monitoring reports-Hardwick, Holmes, Heath and Marshall have completed reports for the properties they monitored.

Updated By-laws- Crooker has removed the formatting and cleaned up the document.

Other Business-

Fitzgerald commented that she had learned that the invasive plant Knotweed has Lyme Disease fighting properties and is being harvested and processed for this purpose.

Heath reported that the Southern NH Planning Commission is conducting another culvert assessment. On Feb 22nd at 3PM there is a Natural Resources meeting and 6:30PM a trails committee meeting.

Hardwick reported that there is a Hemlock program scheduled the same day as Saving Special Places.

Crooker motioned to adjourn meeting. Fitzgerald 2nd. Meeting adjourned 9PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Holmes, Clerk