

Francestown Conservation Commission

Francestown, NH

Approved Minutes

April 4, 2016

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

Members of public in attendance: Rick Kohler

Meeting came to order 7:35PM

New Business- Shoreland variance request- Rick Kohler came before the board representing the Howsten family who own the property on 130 East Shore Drive in Francestown. M20L3. A seasonal camp currently exists on the property and they propose razing the existing structure (which sits within the Shoreland conservation district), and rebuilding by moving the structure 10 feet farther back from the shoreland to allow for a deck. There will be an increase in living space by 50% by means of a 2nd floor loft. This conforms to the state setback but not town setback. State approval has already been obtained for shoreland approval. They plan to keep the property in a natural state with no impervious surfaces. There will be no expansion of the dock or day use areas. A new septic has already been installed 2008/2010 for a 2 bedroom loading. A new well will be put in. The state has approved the erosion control plan. Rick showed the board plans and photos for this project. Rick stated he will follow up during the project to make sure things are done according to plan. The board had a brief Q& A session and discussion and all were in favor of approving the plan provided all the conditions of the state are met and there are continuing site inspections during the project.

Earth Day Events/Blue Bags- Heath volunteered to pick up the blue bags. Carbee commented that the roadside clean-up used to be more fun as things were done such as weighing bags of trash to see how much was picked up from each area etc. Marshall reported that Crotched Mt Ski area was applying to sponsor roadside cleanup along Rt 47 from Back Mt Rd Francestown to the ski area in Bennington. She also suggested that kids from Great Brook School could volunteer for a couple hours for their community service project. The board decided that we could make clean-up day an event which would be scheduled April 23rd from 9-11AM meeting at the Town Hall to organize groups. And people can also do roadside clean-up in their own time if they wish. Marshall offered to pick up gloves and Carbee will do a poster/announcement.

Pleasant Pond Shoreland violation- Carbee informed the board that the original photos of the site had been lost so the report was never made, but a concerned citizen has sent Hardwick photos which are helpful and Hardwick will follow up on reporting this violation.

2016 Goals/Objectives/Projects- Hardwick suggested the board think about this. Marshall recommended making the Quarry Loop trail handicap accessible, possibly using 2-3 inches of bark mulch and widening the trail etc. This would also be helpful to do for the Storybook Trail. Heath suggested launching another landowner conservation easement education/outreach program and evaluate corridors/exemplary communities/un-fragmented land that property owners may have on their property. We may want to focus on agricultural land. Heath offered to head this project. Marshall suggested a program on timber cutting. After some discussion, the board decided a forestry program might be interesting such as looking at how different areas which have been cut have turned out after some time.

Updating Town Website- Hardwick suggested board members look at the site and see if anyone has any new ideas.

Old Business- Storybook walk- Mary Ferrel is excited that we want to do this. Marshall suggested using sturdier stakes to make them hold up better. The goal is to get this up around mid-June.

Joan Hanchett Nature Series program- Carbee will volunteer to be the ConCom rep for this program.

Duck Boxes cleaning/replacing old/workshop-On hold

Interpretive trail/school science project- There may be multiple grades involved in this project. The plan is to place numbered markers on the trail and have a map handout to go along with it.

Annual Monitoring Reports- They are all completed. We have received a copy of the monitoring reports from the Forest Society. They did an aerial report of the Rogers property which we hold an executive interest in.

Updated By-Laws- In progress

Minutes- Freese made a motion to accept minutes from Feb 1, 2016 as written. Heath second. All in favor minutes approved.

Crooker motion to adjourn. Shuffleton second. Meeting adjourned 8:49PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Holmes