

Conservation Commission Minutes

Oct 3, 2016

5:30 PM, Town Office

Present: Pam Smilie, Dave Matesky, Mark Ross-Parent, Tom Siedel, Brian Byrne, Margaret Graciano, Mike Dufilho

Susan took notes, Hank filmed

Review Minutes (Sept 12,)

Mike did not remember saying anything about CHOCORUA LAKE having no parking. Approved with one amendment.

Did CC know a porta potty was going up in town? Tom: yes.

Annual meeting of Conservation Commissions: Nov. 12 – at Pembroke Acad. Near Concord: mitigating threats. Key note speaker: Tom Wessels

Public Comment

Conservation Easements – Pam's letter looks fine, add indiv addresses and have town office send out to come from town with JCC as return address. With form letters do we want indiv monitors signing? Ans: just general cc member will contact you. We can try to end early and go to maps to get names to gather address.

Wildcat Trust is an easement: we go to maps – wild cat trust is owner. Town can tell the owner and address and phone #. We need this for the SPNHF forms, etc. SPNHF: needs us to do 5 properties, treating each property as separate. On-line form to fill out. Link coming from Tom. Our deadline is November. Need to do ASAP because property owners will go away for the winter. SPNHF encourage us to do more than just stroll the property: talk to owners, discuss plans for property and review the easement. In the past there were folders with details for discussion. Walk the boundaries, not just drive by (even if possible.)

Margaret: Bree JSTF working on Ellis River 100+acre easement with NRCS (?) (Brian – already staked and marked)

Prospect Farm Interp. Signs: Margaret and Mike have handed out copy of rough draft of signs. To review: cellar holes: where did those original names come from? Brian and Dave – ID'd before 20+ years. George or Dexter? Alice Pepper – Phil Davies might know. Garland and Hall can't be found. Source of map? So, reprint of map carried over names without sources. So cellar holes description may get pared down.

Signs for Hall's Ledge and other places – keeping it minimal to allow for upkeep.

Theme maintained? Settlement and abandonment of hill farms in NE? Will they be stand alone or with big intro at kiosk? More at kiosk once map sourced and rebuilt? A common thread to unite the signs can be done.

Call it “Historic Prospect Farm?” George suggested this.

Change the name for all 500+ acres? The “historic” word adds weight but if the write-up is clearly about the history, then no need to change the name.

Along with the paw (to indicate dog trail) a symbol to indicate historic trail. Image of Baker House on trail signs and maybe interpretative signs (background?)

Same order/similar to JXN town signs at Falls with town logo - Baker House as watermark.

Margaret emailed Bree/JSTF to update her on sign progress and out of place culvert on Quail Trail.

George wondered: JSTF mows its trails then why don't they mow cellar holes? Or is it Forest Service? Tom: town decided on mowing, we can pay for mowing. Schedule of maintenance by Forest Service depends on logging, etc. Town has added \$0 since the logging improvements. Town has agreement with FS to access the logging via town roads.

Halls Ledge: Dave asks if that way can be cleared to get a better view - very grown in and can't access the actual ledge beyond the picnic table. Mike suggests: 3 year cutting of small trees needed. Tom: current view is maintained as is. Brian: someone is lopping off the tops of small trees.

Tom: signs: standards for signs that mark land maintained/owned by town of Jackson (Like forest service has sign standards for all their signs.) We can determine if logo, watermark, names of group maintaining, etc. Hall's Ledge trail sign needed (under Bog Brook Trail) Another needed by orchard – obscured by brush. Move or clear some brush.

Mowing: ask JSTF is there is a \$ # to get some more mowing – out of town budget. Town has had cc trails that cross town property, but other trails not maintained.

Back to signs: what do we want on our signs:

Get JSTF to get all signs on one post at an intersection. Best to take down the older signs so as not to confuse (even if it's cool to see them.)

JSTF first, consolidate with JCC. Margaret and Mike will work to unify the theme and design with watermark. Tom likes the ecology aspect with orchard and Hall's Ledge. Saco water shed vs. Wildcat River valley.

Panorama sign? VR goggles?

Jackson Falls –Fencing estimates - calls made for estimates for companies to install fencing. Waiting to hear back. A few calls more to be made.

\$ could come from Wildcat Trust - JCC goes to selectmen to approve with quote. When there's a receipt town will pay and trustees of trust fund will reimburse town. (town meeting for warrant article to have \$ taken from trust or town budget? Trustees approve that the request fits the rules of the trust. Pam suggests doing a portion this year with \$ we have control of.

No parking signs: agreed upon, need to email Pat.

Porta potty at Falls: selectman agree - will do box around it - hopefully will box it in a way that lends more privacy than the one by the library but that truck can get to it. Placement: on Valley Cross? So that the neighbors won't see it. With signs with arrows like everywhere? Or near handicap spot? Centrally located. That will solve people using the neighbors' yard across the street.

Gray's Inn – mowed

Adjourned 5:28

As always, the public is encouraged to attend and share their vision for the use of Jackson town properties. Our meetings are typically at 5:30 PM at the town office building on the first Monday of each month