

**Conservation Committee 5:30 PM**  
**December 5, 2016**  
**Minutes**  
**DRAFT until Approved**

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

Hank Benesh filmed the meeting. Susan Ross-Parent took notes.

Minutes from last time: approved as written.

Pam: Thanks Mark for taking down twine and stakes for the winter at Falls. Other stakes and signs stored at Pam's, Tom's and Mark's.

Tom: approved annual dues

**Easement reviews:** CC members completed a number of easement visits and completed SPNHF reports. Discussed solar panels on easement land not in the original agreement, trimming for views, and removing trails not in agreements.

Tom talked to Peppers and can see on line: Carroll County registry of deeds - enter owner/new owners' names. Can print out for \$1/page. Probably also here.

SPNHF: Brian finished the Highland Trust area - no changes.

Dave and Pam didn't get to Tilney's. Tom got her contact email address. Can see most of property from road.

Tom: Wildcat River Trust – SPNHF easement, not town. Mark will do.

JSTF owns land at end of Carter Notch that SPNHF has easement to, downhill between road and river.

CC has no role in review here as SPNHF has sole easement.

Mike – Rockwell all done. Debate as to who holds easement. (Nice card from Seth Rockwell.) It's Not USVLT because the easement is older than USVLT. Town owns easement while Rockwells still own land. Back loop to Pond 4 to section along road that goes up to Presidential. Sign removed and trail abandoned until recently. Trail now maintained with sign: up to Tin Mtn Conservation and Seth Rockwell: may need to brush in trail and remove sign. Bootleg trail to Middle Mountain: from a cleared area – one parcel – owners are fine with trail across property.

**Prospect Farm:** Interpretive signs tabled for now. Signs will reflect the history of agricultural abandonment in NE.

Dave: signs for snow roller and other equipment – Phil Davies gave to him and they're in the town hall basement– so we have copies when needed.

Kiosk: to update it we won't spin it (would change orientation of map) but add a new sign to go on its end. Replacing kiosk? Due to questions about how to get to Hall's Ledge – should we replace the map in the kiosk and/or update map on web page. Don Johnson made the map currently on the kiosk, or AMC cartologist. Questions as to how much this cost at the time and now. Mike notes that there are several maps available to the public (AMC, JSTF) we could note that.

Tom also suggested a simpler map (no topo lines) and could shrink/zoom on Halls Ledge area.

Suggestion to contact Don through forest management plan.

Tom: got costs for 4 signs at Prospect. Mike can ask about consolidating signs with JSTF.

**Falls:** Ask for funding from town for continuing improvements. Tom brought draft letter to trustees so that selectmen can work into their budget. Map will go letter to show placement of map. Asked for feedback from Commission members who critiqued with comments on the “nice” descriptions: bastion, sun dappled, contested (or congested?) and applauded the inclusion of a photo showing what's at Diana's Bath for fencing. Suggested adding a little more “this needs to happen or this consequence.” Will email corrections/additions to committee.

Cost? Estimates are being gathered from: Eastern Greens, Jay Henry, Todd Crane from Rotten Rock.

**Annual Report brainstorm:** photos of group, planting at Falls – chips, signs, planting and seeding, fence proposal, walked property with Pat Kelley and Bob Thompson.

No parking signs for spring – and Tom will walk the area again with sign notes with Pat and Bob again

Larry (want to do something fitting besides a bench – plant a tree? What was Larry passionate about – this area near his house - loved making trail with school kids, could name a feature after him, view, memorial tree (what if it dies?) or the orchard at Prospect and the car up there)

- Many volunteers picking up trash
- Continuing to plan to write a recreation plan for Upper and Lower falls.
- Easement monitoring
- bridge near school
- another bridge
- Prospect Farm annual maintenance completed

- Continue to work with Forest Service
- knot weed spraying info to public

**Other business:** Intake near Nestlenook in Ellis River– paperwork? - replaced the piping and intake boulders that created eddy have changed.

Black Mountain Ski Area: sandbags in river this weekend. Need to read latest version of what was permitted: thought is that sand bags were to be replaced with solid gate – not approved by state for solid structure – need to review permits, paperwork. Who's responsibility to notify DES? Who monitors? Simple email?

Quick review of CC files shows Nov. 23, 2015 – approval for last snow-making season's sandbags to be the last.

Margaret will call Black Mountain Ski Area for their updated plan, then DES if needed.

Next spring: Lower Falls – improve signs to Falls, brush out (it's been a few years.)

**Adjourned** with photo: all in favor. Who's got a phone with a camera?

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Susan Ross-Parent*