

Jackson Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2016

Present were members: Margaret Graciano, Pam Smillie, Brian Byrne, Tom Seidel, Mike Dufilho, and Mark Ross-Parent. Dave Matesky was absent. Hank Benesh filmed the meeting. Thank you, Hank!

The minutes from October's meeting were approved as amended. Tom and Pam's name misspellings were corrected, the deadline for SPNHF monitoring is December 31st, and our meeting actually adjourned at 6:28pm.

Tom made a motion to spend \$266.00 to renew our membership in the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions. All were in favor.

Tom informed us that our formal easement monitoring letters were sent out. He got a couple of responses, (one from the Tilney's) that he forwarded to Pam and Dave.

There was some discussion regarding what we need to do to check each property. Margaret asked if the town monitoring has a form that we need to fill out. Tom said no, it is a verbal report.

Prospective Farm Interpretive Signs

Mike and Margaret met earlier today to discuss the progress on the signs. Mike's wife was wondering if if anyone actually cares about having interpretive signs up there. Mike is concerned that without upkeep, it will just become trash. Margaret can understand both perspectives. Brian said that he feels historical information is valuable to everyone. Mike said that marking the cellar holes could be cool. Tom said that rotating the kiosk is going to mix-up the directions so that the roads/trails will be oriented incorrectly.

Tom advocated for setting concrete goals for the next two months so that we can use some of the money in our budget on the Prospect Farm project.

Pam asked what are the priorities?

Tom made a list: two trail signs for Hall's ledge, kiosk, and interpretive signs.

Tom made a draft of trail sign guidelines for Jackson town properties. We reviewed it and discussed our feelings regarding trail sign criteria. Everyone agreed that overlapping signs for different uses is extremely confusing.

Mike suggested that the signs be "ice green" and gold based on Jamaica's flag. However, we decided that the signs should be white with green letters.

Town visitors get a handout from their hotel with trail descriptions. Mark and Margaret met a British couple that was reading the description. Mike suggested that this blip be updated. Margaret volunteered to contact the chamber and the hotels to see if we can update the directions for how to find Hall's Ledge.

We agreed to work on trail signs first because it is most important that people know how to get where they are going. Margaret and Mike will continue to try to work on the interpretive signs for December's meeting. Yes they will!

Tom will email Bree to communicate our sign intentions and see how we can work together!

Jackson Falls

Tom reported back on the fencing estimates. Rotten Rock's rough ROUGH (ballpark) estimate was \$10,000.00 for materials and installation. However they won't be able to do it this fall. In order to pay for it, Tom said that we have money in the Wildcat Trust for the care and preservation of Jackson Falls. Once we have a real estimate we would submit it to the town's budgeting process. This decision needs to be voted on by the town before we can use the money. We could pay for it ourselves out of our

\$24,000.00 budget because the selectmen have already approved the fence. Tom wondered if we could then get reimbursed by the trust after it was approved.

Mike pointed out that the trust has a lot of money for a small stretch of river and this seems like an appropriate use.

Mike and Tom will work on the fence proposal together. Pam said people will likely be happy not to see the string anymore. And Brian pointed out that we should reiterate (in the proposal) that our temporary twine has been successful. Already he feels a difference when he walks on the paths up there because it is clear where you should walk.

Mike loves Pam's idea of "Caution, poison ivy!" signs everywhere.

Mark asked if we want to remove the twine for the winter.

Margaret thinks we should keep it up because people still trample everywhere even in the snow.

Everyone else agreed that it looks trashy and gets frozen in the snowbanks. Tom asked what date we want to remove it. Mark did volunteer to remove all the stakes and twine until he learned that we have to save the stakes. Now he's not so sure he wants to. But he will....he will.

Gray's Inn

Tom is wondering if anyone wants to put up signs out there. Margaret says no. Mike says mowing is more important than signs because otherwise no one will go out there. Margaret thinks the poison ivy in the field is a huge deterrent. Mike says it's a great walk for visiting families who want to go for a little kid-friendly walk. Brian says it's perfect for a little "chappy!" Tom says if we have a sign, what should it say? "Mystery House Loop, 0.5 miles." We need two of them.

Town Annual Report

Everyone nominated Margaret to write our blip for what we have done this year. Wonderful.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Graciano