

Jaffrey Conservation Commission Minutes

Draft

February 22, 2012

Present: Michael George, Chair
Nora Barton Bryant
Carolyn Garretson
William Graf

Brenda Bhati, guest

Absent: Nancy Beiter
Patricia Weiner
Ron Rogstad, Alternate
Kathy Batchelder, Selectboard Representative

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

II. The January 25, 2012 minutes were approved as written.

III. The bank statement was not received until this afternoon, so CG was unable to update the balance sheet for the meeting. There was \$2.09 interest for the month. The current balance is \$31,737.62.

IV. Followup Items

A. Children's Woods Projects - MG reported that the kiosks for the beginning of the trails were started. They will be installed later in the spring.

CG reported that the bird houses needed to be assembled before being installed. WG and Harry Young will handle the assembly.. They and MG will do the installation after March 12, and will contact Jim Bearce for assistance, if needed.

MG and WG will work on finalizing the brochure with the map.

B. Educational Programs - The subcommittee of NB, NBB, and CG met and discussed several ideas for programs. NB suggested convening a meeting of people with land in easements, people who might be interested in putting their land into easements, and representatives from conservation groups, such as The Monadnock Conservancy. After some discussion, it was felt that it might be better to meet with the first group alone and then see if we could form a panel presentation to which the second group could be invited. This could be at a venue where wine and cheese would be served.

A second idea was to offer a presentation to the community on “Bears, Bats, and Bobcats”, as we have identified experts for each species.

C. Town Meeting Display - It was decided to have a small display at town meeting, featuring our weed wrenches, the new trail map of Children’s Woods, and a sign up sheet for prospective members. Tasks were assigned.

D. Wittemore Island - Jan McClure is anxious to do a baseline survey as soon as possible, and was hoping to cross to the island on the ice. However, the ice isn’t safe, yet it is too icebound for kayaks. As soon as conditions are right, the following members would like to participate: NB, CG, WG, and MG.

E. Mountain Brook Reservoir - CG reported that Mountain Brook Reservoir was severely lowered to place the new culvert under the causeway. When she inquired, she learned that the reservoir gate was opened instead of building the coffer dams that were in the proposal. Further, the NH Department of Fish and Game were not notified as required by law. She is seeking further information and will report back to the Commission in March.

V. New Business

A. Commission Records - Brenda Bhati informed the Commission that she still has some of the Commission’s records at her house. She and MG will arrange to have them transferred over.

B. Mount Monadnock Conservation Projects - Brenda also told us about contacting SPNHF and discussing various ways to pursue funding for the new parcels they are trying to protect on Mount Monadnock. A few of these could potentially involve the Commission, so she wanted us to be informed.

C. Saving Special Places - This year the workshop will be held on April 14 at John Stark High School in Weare.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM. The next meeting will be held at the Town Offices on March 28, 2012 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Graf