

New Boston Conservation Commission (NBCC)

Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2012

Members In Attendance: Laura Bernard, Barbara Thomson, Burr Tupper, Rebecca Balke (7:39), Tom Morgan, Rick Searle, Jay Webber

Members Absent: Mike DePetrillo, Ed Gilligan, Gerry Cornett, Amy Elkes-Simon

Guests In Attendance: None

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca reported there is \$693,323.23 in the account.

Administrative Position: Laura introduced Maralyn Segien who has agreed to help in this capacity.

Minutes: The members reviewed the minutes and corrections were noted. Rick moved to accept the January minutes. Rebecca seconded the motion. All approved.

Monitoring Reports: Barbara gave the monitoring reports as follows:

- Barbara said the Commission has in the past discussed posting project status reports, Barbara has prepared a document with text but maybe a spreadsheet would be better? Tom also suggested adding pictures. Laura suggested creating a place on the website just for stewardship reports which the members thought was a good idea. Barbara will meet with Laura to set this up.
- Barbara asked if a sign is needed on Bog Brook Road. The members discussed if it can be walked into and if it needs to be monitored in the winter. Barbara moved to order a sign. Tom seconded the motion. This motion was tabled. The members decided the bounds for NBCC Bog Brook Preserve will be posted. It will not be included in the brochure of properties. Burr will walk this next week. It is a town property.
- Mill Pond and Lyndeborough Road are both LCIP properties. Steve Walker from the state has suggested the committee prepare a management plan for these properties. Barbara agrees for Lyndeborough Road but is not sure about Mill Pond. Burr agrees but a plan could help with the proposed bridge at Mill Pond. There are currently management plans in place for Saunders Pasture and Betsy Dodge property that could be used for templates. Barbara, Tom and Jay will review these and work on the Lyndeborough Road Management Plan.
- Barbara recommends the Commission send a letter to the abutters of the rail trail to let them know the Commission is anticipating work on the trail. Barbara and Laura will prepare a list of the abutters. An article may also be published in the New Boston Bulletin. Some problems where abutters have placed "POSTED Private Property" signs inside the trail boundary have been noticed. Code Enforcement Officer Ed Hunter has suggested the Commission informally talk to these abutters about this. The NBCC posted town signs for the trail on state land.

Another sign is ready to be posted. Rick said four or more total might be needed for this trail. Burr said Scott Roelf and Rob Scipio from NH DRED have said they have no problem with the town posting its signs on the state property. A second sign may be posted at the trailhead at the 4-H grounds.

- Gerry and Burr will visit the Saunders Hill Pasture to see whether we need a forester to determine if the pines need to be thinned as Gordon Russell has said.

Winter Carnival: Outdoor events were cancelled.

Brochures: Rebecca reviewed printing costs with the members. They decided to print in color. The map is yet to be prepared. A GIS map is being considered and Rebecca will ask Kurt to review it and print another map. A separate meeting will be scheduled to review the brochures. Laura, Barbara and Rebecca will attend. Bailey Pond should be included. Rebecca will e-mail the map key she has created to the members for review. Jeff Trainer will print the brochures at approximately \$1350 for 3000 large copies. Markers will be mentioned in the brochure. Gerry will install the markers.

Rail Trail Update: Burr set up another meeting to discuss with Rodney Towne, Randy Parker and Rick. Randy ordered maps from Boston and Maine Railroad and is working on getting pictures as well to arrange along the trail in the future. Scott Roelf from NH DRED, Barbara, Burr and Lee walked the trail last week and reviewed the sections of the trail owned by the state. Scott had no problems with the tree removal and other work the Commission plans for the area. He asked the Commission to submit a proposal that he will review. Lee spoke with Rob Scipio from NH DRED who was very positive and has done this with other towns. Rob will prepare a memo of understanding for the town to move forward with the project. A worklist was prepared for member review. Recordkeeping will be added to the list. Volunteers are needed. A meeting will be scheduled for townspeople who are interested in helping with the project. An article will be published in the New Boston Bulletin after the next meeting. Burr will ask Jay Marden from the Historical Society to be involved. Barbara suggested selling railroad ties or give out as mementos. Laura moved to approve the expenditure of \$60 to reimburse Randy Parker for the PDFs he purchased from B&M Railroad. Rick seconded the motion. All approved.

New Boston's 250th: The Conservation Commission is on a list of local organizations that may want to plan something as part of next year's 250th celebration. A meeting is planned for February 8 at 7:30 PM at the library to discuss with local groups. Laura is planning to attend.

Town Report: A report is due for the Town Report by February 10. Burr will draft it Monday. Pictures will be included with this report.

Proposed Organization and Meeting Format: Burr and Laura have been working on a document focusing work done by Conservation Commission volunteers that will be e-mailed to members to select the area they would be interested in helping with. Community volunteers could also help in areas they are interested in. The list includes

Trail management and development, Boundary marking and monitoring, Outreach and administration, Wetlands review and enforcement, and Correspondence.

Computer equipment: Burr noted the Commission has always considered getting computer equipment to access and revise forms in the field that also has GPS and camera capabilities. He brought in some ruggedized tablets made by Glacier which the Commission could purchase for approximately \$3,000 each. The company may also be able to offer a discount. Handheld units are also available. Burr will get specific pricing and arrange a demonstration for the next meeting. Barbara said she is more interested in PDA GPS devices that would cost less. Burr will research the options.

New Members: The members discussed commission participation. New people are interested in becoming active members. Burr will e-mail the current members to ask if they are interested in continuing or becoming an alternate. Four regular members are needed to commit to attending meetings.

Laura moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. Rick seconded the motion. All approved.

Respectfully submitted, Maralyn Segien