

New Boston Conservation Commission (NBCC)
Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2012

Members In Attendance: Laura Bernard, Burr Tupper, Rebecca Balke, Gerry Cornett, Tom Morgan, Jay Webber, Amy Elkes-Simon

Members Absent: Mike DePetrillo, Barbara Thompson

Guests In Attendance: None.

Secretary's Report: The members reviewed the minutes and corrections from Barbara and Laura were noted. Laura moved to accept the April minutes as amended. Tom seconded the motion. All approved. In the future Laura will coordinate all amendments and send them to Maralyn to input into the document.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca noted the Conservation Commission account contains \$499,606.45 after a large check for the easement went to the Mardens. The Open Space balance is not available.

Parcel Monitor Reports/New Sign Request: Barbara was not available to give the monitoring reports.

Signage Update: Gerry met with the print and sign shop that will print the CC signage. There may be a change in price due to the current price of aluminum. Gerry plans to order a total of 2100 trail markers at 45 cents each. Arrows for the signs will also be printed. The print shop can also print weather and sunproof vinyl any size that might be useful for the kiosks. They can also print brochures. Fires not permitted signs are also needed. The print shop indicated everything on the list Barbara provided could be done. He will e-mail a quote to Gerry. The Forestry Committee is also interested in using these signs to mark their trails. NBCC might consider holding a seminar session discussing trail marking at the NH Association of Conservation Commissions Conference in October. New Boston's trail markers will include GPS coordinates, mile markers and be reflective.

Brochure Update: Rebecca spoke to Kurt about labeling the map. Once this is done some CC members will meet to work on further brochure design. Burr also spoke to Amy Kisak who said she could help with wetlands inventory maps as well.

Rail trail Enhancement Plan Update: Burr reported the following:

- Burr, Lee Brown, and Town Engineer Kevin Leonard met with Vanessa Burn from NH DES Tuesday who said the committee is 99% of the way there for permits for railroad improvements. Kevin compared the current map with the B&M Railroad map and has identified every tree in the buffer area, listed them on a spreadsheet and photographed them. Once they are cut they will need to be photographed again before grinding. Vanessa was very impressed with this

documentation. She is preparing a memo of agreement from DRED. All of the old box culverts can be replaced without dredge and fill permits. The committee asked to expand the parking lot on Gregg Mill Road, a grandfathered parking area, but Vanessa suggested a different design to expand parking that the committee is also in favor of. DRED is expected to agree to the change as they were in favor of expanded parking. Vanessa requested a drawing of the concrete slab to replace the wooden plank bridge on 4H property, identified on the B&M Railroad Track Map as "Culvert #423 at 22,277.2." Lee provided this along with the memo of agreement from DRED. Vanessa also suggested if there are things the CC wants to do in the area in the future such as kiosks, park benches or picnic areas they should be noted now. Burr asked CC members to walk the trail and consider where they would put these types of things to make the trail more accessible to all. The committee is planning to make the trail more handicap accessible with a new surface material. Vanessa said it would take five days for the shoreland protection group to approve the request once it is in then she would take two weeks to review and approve it. Kevin is preparing the paperwork now. The committee hopes to begin work on the trail by June 1. Willard is getting quotes for stump grinding and materials. Lee and Kevin have been outstanding working to move the project along. Two invoices have been received from Kevin for the work he has done totaling under \$1,000. Another \$500-1,000 is expected for his work.

- The CC and 4H are moving forward with the permanent right of way for the town of New Boston no matter who owns the property. The right of way will include some parking but trail users will be encouraged to use parking at Lang Station.
- Gerry, Lee Burr and Willard have been meeting to move the project along. A meeting with other interested parties will be scheduled.
- Laura received two checks from the townwide yard sale already. Proceeds will benefit the Rail trail project this year.
- The CC considered who will design the bronze donor plaque, the official name for the trail system (Rail trail has been used so far), the possibility of using purchase of park benches for fundraising, and how Randy Parker could be honored along the trail for his work on the project. These issues are ongoing.

Google Docs (Google Drive): Maralyn set up a separate e-mail for the Conservation Commission that anyone can contact the Conservation Commission with. It is nbnhcc@gmail.com. She has been working to post Conservation Commission documents on Google Drive that any CC members can access, edit and upload more documents for storage by using this e-mail address and password. Burr will create a Rail trail folder and upload the memo of agreement from DRED. Laura will post old documents she has on a CD to that area.

Fourth of July Participation: The CC is interested in holding events next year as part of the 250th celebration. They are considering a winter event at Betsy Dodge ponds including ice-skating, bonfire, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. This event could also be held separately from the 250th celebration. The CC is also considering a fall Rail trail event consisting of a tour of first settlement, a run/walk and a family fun day where

families could get a passbook and visit different areas of the Rail trail to get their book stamped and receive a prize at the end. Jackie Moulton's student group could be asked to organize activities for children that day such as a scavenger hunt, relay races/field day and passbook. People interested in the run/walk would register in advance and pay a fee. NH Fish and Game could be asked to hold a presentation/activity in the river. Bob Todd and Randy Parker could be asked to do demonstrations about the history of the Rail trail. David Woodbury could be asked to give a presentation regarding trains. The Fire Department could be asked to demonstrate the historical hand tub with water from the river. The Daniels family could be asked to bring their antique ice cream maker. The CC will ask for photos they could copy and compile into a book for visitors to take home. The CC will ask residents what type of activities they would like to do at the Rail trail. Commemorative coins could be given to children attending. Stonyfield Farm, LL Bean, EMS and Earthtech will be asked to cosponsor this event. Raffles could be held. Refreshments will be served and residents can get to know the CC at these events. Laura will tell the 250th Celebration committee the CC would like to hold a day on the Rail trail in September and a possible winter event at the Betsy Dodge property.

Open Discussion: None.

Gerry moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM. Amy seconded the motion. All approved.

Respectfully submitted, Maralyn Segien

Action Items:

- Hire a surveyor to put bounds at four corners of the Betsy Dodge Area.
- Gerry-Order signs
- Rebecca-Brochure design
- Barbara-Trail Maps
- Laura-Research electronic and manual tools for the Conservation Commission
- Amy-Thank yous on letterhead to Mark Brown and Ed Gilligan.
- Burr will prepare a meeting format.
- Laura and Gerry will attend 250th Celebration planning meetings
- Laura-Booth at Fourth of July will be planned
- Gerry, Burr and Rick-Kiosk design
- Tom-research ordering tats, shirts and/or tote bags for child volunteers and reply to New Boston Central School Physical Education Teacher Jackie Moulton.
Barbara will prepare a work schedule for student volunteers.
- TBD-Master Plan
- Laura-Planning Board and Sitewalk attendance as needed
- Amy-Reply to Gordon Russell per April meeting
- Barbara-investigate Prime Wetlands designation cost/benefits
- All-as kiosks, park benches or picnic areas they should be noted now. Burr asked CC members to walk the trail and consider where to put kiosks, park benches, picnic areas and things to make the trail more accessible to all.