

New Boston Conservation Commission (NBCC)
Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2012

Members In Attendance: Laura Bernard, Barbara Thompson, Rebecca Balke, Jay Webber

Members Absent: Mike DePetrillo, Burr Tupper, Gerry Cornett, Tom Morgan, Amy Elkes-Simon

Guests In Attendance: Lee Brown, John Shea

Secretary's Report: The members reviewed the minutes and corrections from Laura were noted. Laura moved to accept the May minutes as amended. Jay seconded the motion. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca noted the Conservation Commission account contains \$499,494. The Open Space portion of this balance is \$180,902.77. Town Accountant Karen Craven spoke to the auditors about segregating funds for the Rail Trail project and they suggested fund 10 be used that is a revolving fund that is part of the general fund. Donations for the Rail Trail and any Rail Trail bills will be paid from this fund. The Conservation Commission will vote periodically to put more funds into it. Going forward all donations should be made payable to "Town of New Boston" with a note for "Rail Trail" not NBCC. NBCC is the recipient of money raised through the townwide yard sale this year. Over \$500 was raised so far and will be placed in the NBCC account then moved to the Rail Trail fund.

Parcel Monitor Reports/New Sign Request: Barbara gave the monitoring reports as follows:

- Middle Branch Conservation Area: In April NBCC voted to hire a surveyor to replace the boundary markers per the survey map already prepared as the abutter might have stuff and possibly buildings on the Conservation Area. Jay will call Bob Todd or Sandford for quotes for this project.
- Bog Brook: The Fire Department approved a sign here. Barbara will design a sign with the town seal saying "Bog Brook Conservation Area" or "Bog Brook Preserve Conservation Area" and e-mail it to the members for approval then send to Gerry for a quote for the sign from the state.

Brochure Update: None.

Rail trail Enhancement Plan Update:

- John Shea was present as he has questions about the New Boston Rail Trail project after speaking with Goffstown Selectman David Pierce that was involved with the Goffstown Rail Trail project. He asked how wide the trail would be and was told New Boston is not planning for 10' wide trail as the trail will not be intended for motorized vehicles but instead New Boston's plan is to repair

culverts and put nit pack down to make the trail more accessible for wheel chairs. The original railbed is 7' wide and this project never planned to go beyond the railbed. John is glad to hear about the stump grinding planned. John was also concerned about the expense of the project as the Goffstown Selectman he spoke to mentioned a huge number that New Boston is planning to spend but that is not the reality. Rail Trail plans were reviewed along with Gail Parker's notes from the recent Rail Trail committee meeting.

- New Boston resident Jason Pokrant wrote about his concern about a tree that is down over the Rail Trail that could injure someone if it falls. He is willing to help with periodic maintenance of the trail and will be added to the Rail Trail volunteer list. NBCC will write to him.
- Lee Brown was present to update the NBCC on the progress of the Rail Trail project. He said plans were developed with the help of the town engineer based on the request of NH DES. The Rail Trail committee is overseeing permitting of the project. Three types of permits will be needed including shoreline protection, wetlands and alteration of terrain. DES as the group to identify all trees to be removed and where culverts and drainage work will take place at old culverts that have failed. They are also working with 4-H for an easement and agreed to make the primary parking area at Lang Station where there is currently 6-8 parking spots with no turnaround. DES asked for a site plan for additional parking as the area is surrounded by wetlands. A couple areas that work were found but more topographical information is needed. 10 more parking spots are expected. Most of the engineering data has been supplied and permits are expected within six weeks. This will hold up tree work and culvert replacement but other work can be done now such as the two bridge improvements that will be replaced with precast concrete decks that are expected to be ready in two weeks. The group will start cleaning around and in the drainage structures, create compost piles and observe how the drainage structures are operating. The project is expected to cost \$40,000 plus volunteer labor and donations. They plan to create maintenance teams and divide up work on the trail in sections. This project still needs marketing, grant writing technical aspects and manual labor. It is expected to take 2-3 years to complete phase 1 from the 4-H grounds to Lang Station. Gerry will be asked to put up signs at every Rail Trail entrance asking for volunteers. Vanessa at DES has asked for a list of plans for all improvements to the trail including signs, kiosks, benches, etc. Lang station will be the advertised parking area. A drawing of the 4H easement will be added to the deed. The surveyor has been out and his bill paid.
- John said he has been using the trail for 21 years and when he first heard of the project 5 or 6 months ago he started asking people he met on the trail if they knew about it and they indicated they didn't. An article was published in the New Boston Bulletin in April. More articles will be published and fundraising begun and letters to abutters will be sent notifying them of the plans. John suggested getting information to the public soon and make sure they know the funding is not coming from the general fund. Information will be distributed at the townwide yard sale. The Committee is discussing marketing and getting information out to

residents about the trail. John will be added to the Rail Trail maintenance volunteer list.

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. She will do a presentation at the next NBCC meeting.

250th Participation: The CC had great ideas last meeting about a day of events they could hold centering around the Rail Trail. Barbara and Randy Parker will be asked to do a tour of first settlement. Jay Marden might also have some knowledge. Barbara is concerned the area might need some prepwork before a tour is held. The event was planned for September at the last meeting but instead this event may be held in October or November to enjoy foliage or holiday themes.

Open Discussion:

- Equipment acquisition list: Barbara and Gerry are trying to create a list of equipment needed and equipment in the CC's possession and searching for a storage area. Rebecca has researched the treasurer information for equipment purchases. An equipment list will be added to the treasurer's spreadsheet. Renting a storage unit might be an option.
- Fourth of July booth planning: The CC will have a booth at the Fourth of July to distribute information to the public including Rail Trail maps and other trail maps.
- Prime Wetlands designation-Barbara researched with David Neiman from Goffstown and is now wondering how to save this information. Is it worth it to hire an engineer as Goffstown did for their 24 designate prime wetlands? This type of documentation will help plan future development for the town as NH DES, developers and the town Boards and Commissions will know instantly if a planned development involves a wetland. This database could cost \$30,000 or \$6,000 for just a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) that RSA 36a requires the CC to have and will provide some wetland information. The SNHPC or UNH websites can also give information on wetlands in New Boston that can then be confirmed. Barbara will investigate companies that do this to negotiate quotes. The new NH method process is simple. CC will consider prime wetlands designation but focus on the NRI including tax map and lot number. Jay will attend SNHPC meetings in the fall.

Rebecca moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. Jay seconded the motion. All approved.

Respectfully submitted, Maralyn Segien

Action Items:

- Jay-Get quotes to hire a surveyor to put bounds at four corners of the Betsy Dodge Area.
- Barbara: Design a sign for Bog Brook.
- Write to Jason Pokrant and John Shea confirming their interest in helping work on the Rail Trail
- Gerry: put up signs at every Rail Trail entrance asking for volunteers.
- Gerry-Order signs
- Rebecca-Brochure design
- Barbara-Trail Maps
- Barbara and Gerry-Research electronic and manual tools for the Conservation Commission
- Amy-Thank yous on letterhead to Mark Brown and Ed Gilligan.
- Laura and Gerry will attend 250th Celebration planning meetings
- Laura-Booth at Fourth of July will be planned
- Gerry and Burr-Kiosk design
- Tom-thank child volunteers and New Boston Central School Physical Education Teacher Jackie Moulton for the recent work they did on some trails.
- TBD-Master Plan
- Laura-Planning Board and Sitewalk attendance as needed
- Amy-Reply to Gordon Russell per April meeting
- Barbara-investigate Prime Wetlands designation and NRI companies
- All-Desired Rail Trail kiosks, park benches or picnic areas should be noted now and submitted to DES. 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.