

New Boston Conservation Commission (NBCC)
Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2012

Members In Attendance: Laura Bernard, Barbara Thompson (7:40), Jay Webber, Burr Tupper, Amy Elkes-Simon (7:50)

Members Absent: Rebecca Balke, Mike DePetrillo, Gerry Cornett, Tom Morgan

Guests In Attendance: None.

Secretary's Report: The members reviewed the minutes and corrections were noted. The proposed changes to the "Wetlands Conservation and Stream Corridor District" Ordinance discussed at the last meeting were given to Planning Coordinator Nic Strong. Laura moved to accept the July minutes as amended. Jay seconded the motion. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca was not present to report.

Parcel Monitor Reports/New Sign Request: Barbara had nothing new to report.

Brochure Update: Rebecca was not present to report.

Rail Trail Enhancement Plan Update:

- The Rail Trail Committee has scheduled a "zombie run" fundraiser at the 4H Grounds in October. This is the first year the event will be held and the number of participants will be limited this year. A company will be paid to run the event. The committee expects to raise \$20,000-22,000 through this event. \$10,000 is planned to go the 4H Foundation and \$10,000 to the Conservation Commission. This is a possible annual fundraising event.
- The new bridge at the entrance to the Rail Trail on the 4H grounds is installed and landscaped.
- Town Attorney Bill Drescher has all the information he needs to complete the right of way paperwork for the town to have a permanent right of way across the current 4H property no matter who owns it.
- Town Engineer Kevin Leonard completed all the topo maps. He met with NH DES July 31 for approval. DES is in the final stage of completing the memo of understanding.
- Three articles regarding the Rail Trail were published in the August issue of the New Boston Bulletin.
- Approval of the trail is still needed from the Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC) and this is expected to be granted.
- National Heritage was concerned about endangered species that could be affected by the Rail Trail and the committee wrote to them to say these species are known to be there and kiosks will be installed along the trail to educate people using the trail to be careful of these endangered species.

- The trail was logged, stumps ground, culverts installed and a bridge over another culvert is expected to be completed by October. The DES permitting process was more extensive than anticipated.
- The Gregg Mill Road parking lot plot plan was received from Surveyor Bob Todd. NH DRED has urged the committee to increase the size of the parking lot on their land to 15 spaces with separate entrance and exit.

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. These documents are organized into folders. Any e-mail she receives regarding CC are uploaded. Members were asked to review this information and particularly review the document “Contact Listing” to make sure their contact information is correct and were encouraged to update the “Project Tracking Spreadsheet” as they work on projects. Amy will upload correspondence she sends to a Correspondence folder. Burr will add some documents to the “Rail Trail” folder and notify Rail Trail Committee Member Lee Brown of this folder for his review.

250th Participation: The CC is officially on the calendar for a Family Day on the Rail Trail September 21, 2013 as part of the 250th Celebration. The CC has been discussing a lot of great ideas for this event including demonstrations by outside organizations such as NH Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited, workshops for all ages, a treasure hunt, geocaching, collecting stamps in a passbook throughout the trail with awards and a raffle prize, a 5k, tour of first settlement, refreshments at Lang Station. Corporate sponsors will be asked to help with the refreshments including Jay’s company and Stonyfield Farm. New Boston Central School Physical Education Teacher Jackie Moulton and her hiking group could be asked to act as junior guides on that day. The scouts could be engaged to sponsor an activity on the trail. This will be an introduction to the new and improved Rail Trail. More ideas are welcome.

Open Discussion:

- An e-mail was received from Nathan Carle as his Bear Den Cub Scouts troop would like to help the CC with projects. Laura responded to his e-mail saying the CC would discuss it at their meeting tonight. Barbara has been working on trail maintenance and looking for people to help. She is excited to contact Nathan to set up this volunteer work.
- Burr noticed a hydroseeding truck by the fire hole along the river taking water from the river for hydroseeding. He introduced himself as Chairman of the CC, questioned if that was allowed. Burr spoke to Fish and Game Officer John McGee who referred him to DES about the issue where he learned that water cannot be taken out of the river without permission of the landowner in that area and the amount taken is limited to 1400 gallons per year. An article will be published in the New Boston Bulletin to educate residents. The Playground

Association owns the land in that area. Burr will get the information he learned to the hydroseeding company.

- Barbara has been working on filing with Cyndie Wilson. They have not yet completed the Campbell Swamp research and will meet with Laura about this. Open Space Committee Chairman Ken Lombard has also been researching this. Bob Todd may need to be consulted.
- Signage for Saunders Pasture Trail was discussed. She would like to use Rick Herget to create the signs for Saunders Pasture and Bog Brook. A quote of \$1210 for Saunders Pasture was received. Barbara then asked PLC to create signs. They used volunteers to make pine signs on metal stakes at a total cost of \$125.70. The CC will reimburse this cost. Barbara then borrowed the CC posthole digger and noticed it is not working properly. Burr suggested she ask Willard Dodge if she can borrow his auger to install the sign posts. Burr said he has some levels in his garage if needed. Kim DiPietro is coordinating with the CC for a horse trail at Saunders Pasture. The foot and horse trails were reviewed. The foot trail will be 1.1 miles with nature lookouts noted along it. Open Space Committee Chairman Ken Lombard is considering building a bench or platform to encourage viewing of great meadow. Yellow diamonds will be used to mark the foot trail. Kim has asked for "Horse Trail" signs from a catalog along the horse trail at 85 cents each for a decal to stick onto another material. The CC approved this order. Barbara reviewed other signs and decals to be placed along the trail. Laura moved to allow Barbara to order signage for the Saunders Pasture foot and horse trails including reimbursement of the PLC not to exceed \$500. Amy seconded the motion. All approved. Barbara will ask Rick to work on the Bog Brook signs after the Saunders Pasture signs have been decided on. He has done work for the CC before and Barbara has the stamp he created at that time. An article about Saunders Pasture will be published in the September New Boston Bulletin.
- Open Space Committee Chairman Ken Lombard has been working with abutters to get an easement or right of way for people to hike to Indian Falls.
- Amy will send a letter to Lisa Ferro of Butterfield Mill Road about her concerns about logging on Lyndeborough Road where land was clearcut all the way to the brook and prompted the proposed changes to the "Wetlands Conservation and Stream Corridor District" Ordinance discussed at the last meeting. Amy will let her know the CC has spoken to the project manager and the forester and this won't be happening again. Barbara was pleased to announce Lisa is now the steward for the Lyndeborough Road Conservation Areas.
- Amy sent a draft letter thanking Ed Gilligan for his years of service to the CC to Barbara, Burr, Laura and Cyndie Wilson for review. A personal letter will also be sent to Mark.
- Jay received quotes for the bounds survey of the Betsey Dodge Conservation Area from Bob Todd. Jay will meet with Bob next week. He will also ask him about 4 CC tasks that are backlogged in his office including the Lyndeborough granite bounds, Betsey Dodge Conservation Area bounds, Bog Brook Preserve Conservation Area discrepancy between the tax map and deed statement 9-54 and Indian Falls/Campbell Pond research as discussed above. Jay was asked to

review any quotes received from Bob with the CC for approval before agreeing to his services.

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

Respectfully submitted, Maralyn Segien

Action Items:

- Jay-Meet with surveyor Bob Todd next week and discuss 4 CC tasks that are backlogged in his office.
- Amy-Write to Jason Pocrant and John Shea confirming their interest in helping work on the Rail Trail
- Gerry-Install signs at every Rail Trail entrance asking for volunteers.
- Barbara-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
- 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.
- All-Review and add to documents uploaded on Google Drive
- All-Consider events to be held on Rail Trail Day
- Barbara-Contact Nathan Carle and the Bear Den Cub Scout troop to set up volunteer trail maintenance work.
- Burr-Publish an article in the New Boston Bulletin to educate residents about taking water from the river.
- Barbara and Maralyn-Filing
- Barbara-Campbell Pond research
- Amy-Send a letter to Lisa Ferro of Butterfield Mill Road about her concerns about logging on Lyndeborough Road