

New Boston Conservation Commission (NBCC)
Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2012

Members In Attendance: Rebecca Balke, Barbara Thompson, Jay Webber, Burr Tupper, Gerry Cornett

Members Absent: Laura Bernard, Amy Elkes-Simon, Mike DePetrillo, Tom Morgan

Guests In Attendance: None.

Secretary's Report: Deferred pending members' review.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca reported there is \$480,203.60 in the account and the Open Space portion contains \$184,688.00.

Brochure Update: Rebecca showed a new map that was updated with all the town conservation and forestry lands color-coded. Barbara was concerned the map shows an error at Bog Brook that is in the tax map where an area is not connected that should be and this should be cleared up with Surveyor bob Todd. A brochure will be prepared with the map and an informational key on one side and information about each of the Conservation Commission areas on the other side. Rebecca will review each property and confirm their labels with Barbara. The map will highlight conservation areas, privately owned and publicly accessible areas and publicly owned publicly accessible areas. Rebecca will get some samples from Kurt. The brochure will be posted on line and will be periodically updated on line.

Saunders Pasture Proposal: Barbara reported this is functionally done. The PLC contributed a lot to the project. More expenses are coming up. Barbara has been working with Kim DiPietro of the New Boston Forestry Commission and PLC for the horse trail. The foot trail is complete. Signs are installed and the PLC needs to be reimbursed. Graham Pendlebury also installed a platform to view great meadow at \$410. There is poison ivy they are working to remove. The PLC printed trail guides and an informational flyer at \$610 to be available to hikers. Barbara recommended the Conservation Commission own these publications and keep them on the website for people to print at home. This publication was never discussed with or approved by the Conservation Commission. Barbara was involved with the project and discussed it with the Conservation Commission periodically. She asked others to put forth the work and they did. The Conservation Commission did agree to pay for materials but that did not include pamphlets. The Conservation Commission will write to the PLC thanking them for what they did and ask that in the future the PLC to come to them to discuss this type of thing before going forward. Barbara moved to pay for the pamphlets. Gerry seconded the motion. All approved. An article was published in the September New Boston Bulletin. The PLC owns the easement. The town owns the property. There is still work to be done. Steve Hansen will build benches for the lower pasture. Additional signage for the horse trail was discussed at \$150. New trails are not being cleared for horses, they

will use the logging trail and it will need to be maintained by mowing. Burr is concerned that doing something like this for a special interest group will set a precedent for other special interest groups. In this case horses were always planned to be allowed at this property and there is concern for horse safety on the foot trail. The foot trail could be moved but then the viewing platform would not be on the trail. Bridges over the stream are possible in the future. There is also concern that if a horse trail is not marked they will use the property anyway and make their own trail. Barbara said Kim became involved when Barbara asked her for advice on the horse trail. Kim then offered the PLC volunteers to help with the project. Gerry moved to approve \$150 for horse trail signs. Rebecca seconded the motion. All approved.

Signage: Gerry reported the state printed the trail markers. Gerry will prepare a spreadsheet with the number of each marker and its GPS location to make it easier for emergency personnel to reach people on the trail in an emergency. The state is working on the prohibited/allowed signs and the others discussed at prior meetings. Gerry will ask the state for an estimated date they will be ready.

Rail Trail Enhancement Plan Update:

- Burr received the draft right of way agreement for the 4H grounds from Town Attorney Bill Dresher. Burr edited it and it was redrafted. Lee Brown now has it and will meet with Willard Dodge and the 4H directors for approval.
- The project is running overbudget in some areas such as the bridge at the fairgrounds but some materials from that will be reused at Lang Station.
- There is a meeting Monday with PERLAC for approval.
- Louise and Lynn are doing a great job getting volunteers.
- The Rails to Entrails race is coming up in October. A significant amount of money is expected to be raised through this event. There are some expenses involved. The Police and Fire Departments are involved with this event.
- The Committee is expecting to log the trail before winter.
- The NH Association of Conservation Commissions asked New Boston to do a presentation at the November 3 meeting regarding what New Boston is doing for trails. Lee will help Burr prepare. They also asked New Boston to present with Barry Wicklow regarding the culvert assessment program. This request is a great recognition from this group and an opportunity to show the great things New Boston has done.

250th Participation: Laura was not present to report.

Other Items:

- Barbara received a \$475 quote from Rick Herget for signs for Bog Brook Preserve on a smaller form factor than the signs for the other lands but using the same paint, etc. Gerry moved to approve \$475 for these signs. Rebecca seconded the motion. All approved.
- Jay will contact Bob Todd next week to discuss the boundary markers for the Betsy Dodge Conservation Area.

- Steve Walker will meet with the Conservation Commission at a fall meeting to discuss the need for a monitoring and a management plan for Mill Pond and Lyndeborough Road Conservation Area.

Open Discussion:

- The Conservation Commission purchased the book “My Healthy Stream.” Paula Bellemore from PLC is interested in working with the Conservation Commission on mailing it to the appropriate landowners, create labels and pay for the mailing. A joint letter from the Conservation Commission, PLC and Trout Unlimited will be prepared. Any leftover books will be donated to New Boston Central School students.
- Mike DePetrillo is planning to return to the Conservation Commission soon.
- Gerry noted he is impressed with the accomplishments of the Conservation Commission.
- Burr will ask Janet White if she would be interested in joining the Conservation Commission.

Gerry moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. Rebecca 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 Bob’s 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
- Amy-Write to the PLC about Saunders Pasture project
- Mail “My Healthy Stream”
- Prepare for NH Association of Conservation Commissions meeting