



## **Town of Sandown , NH**

### **Conservation Commission**

#### **Minutes**

**November 15, 2012**

**Date:** November 15, 2012

**Place:** Sandown Town Hall

**Members Present:** Paul Carey – Chair, Scott Burt, Mark Traeger, Samantha Borbone, Brian Butler

**Selectmen Liaison:** Mr. Hans Nicolaisen: Absent

**Environmental Consultant:** Mr. Gerry Miller, Certified Wetlands Scientist: Present

**Annual Fishing Derby Chair:** Mrs. Heidi Chaput: Absent

**Opening:** Mr. Carey opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Review of 11/1/12 Minutes**

L92 change to “Mr. Miller viewed the property on-line to see the area in question.”

MOTION: Mr. Burt made a motion to accept the 11/1/12 minutes as amended. Mr. Traeger seconded the motion.

Members voted in favor. Mr. Traeger and Ms. Cairns abstained. The motion passed.

#### **Forestry Cut**

Mr. Butler spoke to Mr. Moreno and handed out a Timber Sale Agreement between Sandown Conservation and the logger. Mr. Moreno chose Bill Perin of Deerfield as the logger. The agreement lists how much they intend to cut and the agreed upon price. There is language about the landing and wetlands crossings. Mr. Moreno already marked trees and has some more to mark. They are thinking of starting in a week and a half.

#### **Rock Climbing on Great Rock**

*Sean Moses, 50 Lakeside Drive and Jay LeSage 23 Holmeswood Drive*

Mr. Moses noted that they climbed two routes on Great Rock. While climbing, they noticed there were very old pitons in the rock. He wanted permission from the Commission to set routes and install climbing bolts at the top of Great Rock to enable them to drop ropes down to use for climbing. They also wanted permission to remove the old pitons from the rock.

Mr. Butler asked if the bolts would be a tripping hazard at the top of Great Rock. Mr. LeSage noted they would be going within a foot or two from the edge and the trail doesn't go that close to the edge. He said it was a small ring that stuck up a few inches. He suggested they could paint them orange so people could see them.

Mr. Carey asked if there were other town forests that had them. They indicated that Denrock Park in Lawrence has them.

Mr. LeSage explained the process of installing the bolts. Mr. Burt asked if he had ever installed any himself and Mr. LeSage indicated that he had not, but has done a lot of research.

Mr. Moses noted there was a group called The Access Fund, a national organization that's sole purpose is to make sure climbing areas stay open. They could answer some of the Commission's questions.

Mr. Traeger asked Mr. Moses if they might be interested in having a climbing event there. Mr. Moses indicated that climbers need climbing shoes and proper gear. Mr. Traeger noted he could contact EMS to see if they could provide rentals.

Ms. Borbone suggested having Matt Rittenhouse from the Tri Town Times write an article.

Mr. LeSage suggested that there may be easier routes for beginners, but they haven't climbed there enough to know.

Mr. Butler noted he loved the idea but was concerned about liability. Mr. Traeger, Mr. Carey and Ms. Borbone were all in favor of the idea. Mr. Burt would like someone who has installed the anchors before to be involved with the installation.

Mr. Carey questioned if the Commission should contact the town attorney to see what the liability would be.

Mr. Carey noted they could address the pitons that were there and take those out.

Mr. Butler suggested that Mr. LeSage and Mr. Moses do some research to see if there are other towns or state forests that have done this before.

Members agreed they would like the bolts to be discreet and not painted orange.

Mr. Traeger suggested that possibly in the spring they could address the issue again. Mr. LeSage and Mr. Moses both agreed they needed to first determine what the routes would be.

### **Forestry Cut Continued**

Mr. Butler reviewed the agreement noting the kind of timber they intended to cut, the prices they would pay for the different kinds of timber. He also noted the 10% timber tax would be paid to the town and go into the general fund.

The agreement noted it would be a skidder operation and they would cut saplings in the way of the skidder trails. They would also fill in ruts when they are completed for a cleaner finish. The logger indicated they hope to be finished by March 10, 2013.

Mr. Burt clarified they would take care of the drainage crossing. Mr. Butler indicated they would upgrade the access road.

**MOTION:** Mr. Burt made a motion to accept the Timber Sale Agreement as written. Ms. Borbone seconded the motion.

*Discussion:* Mr. Traeger spoke with Matt Rittenhouse. He will use the article he previously wrote and update it with current information.

Ms. Borbone showed the signs they created to post in the forest to inform the public of the cut. She found a statement that could be posted on the website explaining the cut. She will also note in the statement that the forestry management plan is at the library and Selectman's office for review. Mr. Traeger suggested adding that the Commission's intent is to improve wildlife habitat, health of the forest and recreational activities.

Members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

### **Trapping**

*Chuck Crowe, 18 Phillips Road*

Mr. Crowe noted that last year he was given permission to trap on the Porter property and Fremont Road town forest on the Odell side. He noted he got five beaver and one raccoon.

Mr. Crowe indicated that the traps are safe for people; the beaver traps are in the water, the raccoon traps are dog proof. He also noted he would be interested in trapping coyote this year, for which he would use land traps.

He noted that he couldn't guarantee that someone walking their dog couldn't find them; they would have to be off the trail. He explained the traps are four coil, foot hold traps that do minimal damage to the animal. He noted if a dog were to get caught, there would be minimal damage and wouldn't likely break it's leg.

Mr. Butler asked what the best management practices were for checking the traps. Mr. Crowe noted state law requires he check them every 24 hours.

Mr. Traeger had some concerns about the coyote traps. He noted in the winter it was easier for people to wander off trails because they didn't need to bushwhack. Mr. Crowe said he would take all precautions with the traps, but couldn't guarantee that people wouldn't encounter them.

Ms. Borbone asked what his background in trapping is. Mr. Crowe indicated he's been trapping since he was 10 years old. He goes after animals to try and control the population. He's selective in what he tries to catch.

Mr. Crowe indicated he has taken courses on trapping and is licensed in NH and MA.

Mr. Traeger asked how long he would leave the traps out. Mr. Crowe explained that it would depend on the activity, but likely two weeks to a month.

**MOTION:** Mr. Butler made a motion for Mr. Crowe to trap on town land. Mr. Burt seconded the motion.

*Discussion:* Mr. Traeger and Ms. Borbone had concerns about the coyote. Mr. Traeger asked if he could put some signage up. Mr. Crowe didn't think a sign would be an issue but was concerned about theft.

Mr. Miller was in favor of the trapping because coyote are starting to become an issue for animal population and human danger.

Mr. Traeger would be more comfortable with him trapping on the Porter property instead of Fremont Road.

Mr. Burt, Mr. Butler and Mr. Carey voted in favor. Mr. Traeger and Ms. Borbone opposed. The motion passed.

### **Boy Scouts**

*Bob Turner, 58 Royal Range Road*

Mr. Turner wanted to see if the boy scouts could use the town forest for a camping trip on December 8-9th. Mr. Butler had no issue with the trip, but reminded him to get a fire permit from Chief Tapley.

Mr. Butler made Mr. Turner aware that the Commission was thinking about spraying for ticks in the spring to make the field more accessible for camping trips at other times of the year.

There were no objections to the camping trip.

### **Spooky Walk**

Mr. Turner indicated that the boy scouts made \$2,967.07.

### **QR Codes**

Mr. Traeger noted that he got quotes for signage and they would be about \$10 per sign. He sent out an email with ideas for content which included: tree species, history on forests in NH, agriculture in NH, rock walks, the Exeter River, the benefits of open space, best forestry management practices, great rock. He suggested they could duplicate some of them on all the properties.

Mr. Traeger, Ms. Borbone and Ms. Poulin would flush out the verbiage.

Mr. Traeger noted that the town website will be moving to virtual town hall. Ms. Cairns has indicated she could do the

web maintenance. Mr. Carey suggested that they could keep the domain name and the email addresses since it would be very low costs for the year.

Ms. Borbone asked where they should put the information for the forestry cut. Members agreed it should stay on the current website and when the site switches over, they could redirect the page.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Traeger spoke with Ms. Drowne who was looking for the deposit for the land purchase. He obtained a new form from Ms. Buckley, and indicated the commission needed to put down a \$36,000 deposit.

Mr. Traeger indicated they would begin surveying soon and that they would be using the same surveyor as the Drownes since he owns the data points and it would be the most cost effective option.

**MOTION:** Mr. Butler made a motion for \$36,000 to go into escrow as a deposit for the Drowne land purchase to come out of the Town of Sandown Conservation Fund, payable to Thompson Title. Mr. Burt seconded the motion. Members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

### **Correspondence**

Mr. Traeger reviewed the correspondence.

\$265 in dues was due to the NH Conservation Commission.

\$88 invoice was received from the Eagle Tribune for ads for the public hearing.

The Commission received a check for Soule, Leslie, Kidder for \$957, but the invoice was for \$162. Mr. Traeger will speak with Ms. Buckley to reissue a check in the correct amount.

Mr. Traeger noted he went to the LGC Conference. He spoke with someone who does GIS mapping and asked if the Commission thought it would be something they might use. Members didn't feel they could justify the cost vs. how often they would use it.

Ms. Borbone asked if there was a way to update the large map to indicate the greenway the Commission would like to create. Members agreed to revisit the topic in January.

Ms. Borbone asked where the forestry cutting signs should go. Members agreed to post them at the kiosk and Odell Road where the landing is going to be. Mr. Traeger suggested she put one of the written statements at the kiosk.

**MOTION:** Mr. Burt made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Butler seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea Cairns