

1 **Sandown Conservation Commission**
2 **Minutes**
3 **August 25, 2016**

4
5 **Date:** August 25, 2016

6 **Place:** Sandown Town Hall

7 **Members Present:** Paul Carey – Chair, Brian Butler, Mark Traeger, Katie Palladino, Terry
8 Knuuttenen, Tom Sands, Kevin Major, Pam Gaudreau

9 **Selectmen’s Liaison:** Mr. Jim Devine: Absent

10 **Environmental Consultant:** Bruce Gilday: Absent

11
12 **Opening:** Mr. Carey opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

13
14 Also present was Jill Winmill.

15
16 **Correspondence**

17 Letter from Robert Wolf, resident from Derry who hikes the Sandown trails, noting there are
18 quite a few trees down along the trails. He was interested in helping. Mr. Major noted the
19 boys scouts will do a work party there the first or second weekend of October to prepare for
20 Spooky Walk. The Mother’s Club signs were also vandalized.

21
22 It leads to a good conversation about a maintenance plan for the town properties. Mr. Butler
23 thought twice a year would be good (spring and fall). Mr. Traeger noted they should create
24 stations and publicize clean-ups on Facebook. Ms. Winmill has come up with an action plan
25 for the town forests and would love to share that.

26
27 **Police Chief Joe Gordon – Vandalism at Great Rock**

28 Mr. Butler contacted Fish & Game to see if they could help monitor the area. He has not
29 heard back from them. Chief Gordon noted Chris McGee is the local patrol for this area. He
30 spoke to them today about general statistics and what other towns deal with in Rockingham
31 County. The primary issue is wheeled vehicles; snowmobiles are not as big an issue.

32
33 Mr. Butler noted that they hoped they could gate off some of the areas where they can gain
34 access. The Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) didn’t want to
35 help out with the issues. They only manage the maintenance of the trails. Chief Gordon noted
36 DRED is not likely going to put work efforts into other lands that are not owned by the state.

37
38 Chief Gordon noted through Fish & Game, they get \$2,500 for 12 months which is
39 approximately 7-8 patrols. They just got a \$3,500 grant from July 2016-June 2017. There are
40 problems all along the trail, even out at the sand pit. They have put up signs and they just go
41 and rip them down. He stakes out at the sand pit and almost always finds violators. It is a \$74
42 fine for operating without landowner permission.

43
44 Mr. Traeger noted they’ve talked about purchasing game cameras. Chief Gordon noted you
45 can video as long as it isn’t pointed at someone’s home but in NH you cannot record audio.
46 Chief Gordon noted he purchased some already for other problems they are having with
47 illegal dumping of trash. He purchased infared cameras. Mr. Butler questioned if that was

48 something that would benefit them? Would the department be interested in working with
49 them? Chief Gordon noted he would have no issue with that. He just doesn't know the
50 activity level. If they are going in every weekend, then it would definitely be beneficial.

51
52 Mr. Knuutinen questioned if they saw someone out there and got their registration number
53 could they go after them after-the-face? Chief Gordon noted if they are registered in the state
54 of NH they can, if they are from out of state, then no. If they are out of state and don't pay
55 the fine, there are no penalties unless they come back into the state. He is seeing more out of
56 state people.

57
58 Chief Gordon suggested getting phones they could monitor through their phone. He also
59 suggested moving the cameras around. If we see something repetitive, every Friday at this
60 time, then they go out and do a sting but they couldn't patrol it on a regular basis.

61
62 It would be nice to put up postings at a kiosk at the general store or at the trailheads or the
63 depot. Chief Gordon noted it is private property, so they have limitations in doing that. Mr.
64 Butler added that the signs are there already and they are going through signs. Chief Gordon
65 noted the benefit of signs is that they are already warned.

66
67 Mr. Carey questioned if there was any benefit to putting up signs that say video surveillance
68 is happening? Chief Gordon noted they would likely search for the cameras, but it probably
69 would help.

70
71 Mr. Carey questioned what the funds from Fish & Game provided. Chief Gordon noted it
72 provided OHRV safety gear and equipment. They don't get hourly patrol time. The grant
73 money they receive from DRED goes towards patrol.

74
75 Chief Gordon suggested blocking the trails. Mr. Butler noted that he's looked at the survey
76 and even though it says the trail is 99' wide, our land doesn't start at the edge of the railroad
77 bed, our property is set back 35'. So there are several points where they can enter the
78 property. They asked DRED if they could block the entrance to the property and they said no.

79
80 Chief Gordon noted he gives far more ATV summons than anyone else. Walkers, bikers and
81 snowmobiles are not the offenders. Mr. Major noted the fire department counts on being able
82 to get up the railroad beds so it needs to be a coordinated effort.

83
84 Chief Gordon noted there is a legislative workgroup trying to allow more lenience in Berlin.
85 He will look into it to see what action is going to be taken down here. It comes down to the
86 education side of it; you get a registration but there is no educational component to it. Mr.
87 Butler noted has ridden all over the place but it all comes down to money and bringing
88 tourism into the region.

89
90 Ms. Winmill questioned if they did get a good photo off the camera, could they post them on
91 Facebook. Chief Gordon noted as long as they were over the age of 18.

92
93 Mr. Major noted at the end of the Hersey Road trail, Craig Beucler noticed there were white
94 strings tied across the trails (waist level) and wondered what they were. Mr. Traeger noted
95 that when they did the forestry cutting on Fremont Road, the forester pulled string across the

96 boundary. Chief Gordon noted there was a person out there preparing for a forest cut. They
97 came into the department to let them know they were there.

98
99 Chief Gordon made the board aware of a snowmobile water crossing event at Sandlots. The
100 pond portion is in Chester, but the parking is in Sandown. Are there any zoning regulations
101 that they don't comply with. Mr. Traeger noted there is a current NHDES violation out there.
102 The board thought they would need permission from the Selectmen to run an event like that.
103 Chief Gordon noted they got approval from Fish & Game, but no one else in town.

104
105 Chief Gordon reviewed some Fish & Game statistics.

106
107 **Craig Beucler, 24 Giordani Lane**

108 Mr. Beucler wanted to update the board on the latest map for the Hersey Road trail. Mr.
109 Beucler would like final feedback on the map so he can get it built. He already built the
110 kiosk. He also wanted suggestions on the rules. The trail would be completed by October
111 10th.

112
113 **MOTION:** Mr. Traeger made a motion to authorize Mr. Major to sign any documents
114 associated with Craig Beucler's Eagle Scout project. Mr. Sands seconded the motion. All
115 members voted in favor. The motion passed.

116
117 **Odell Road Parking Lot**

118 Mr. Major met with Brook Smart from NRCS. She developed plans for a 60x40 parking area.
119 Her plan is to get it formalized and get the packet and money ready for the to get bids this
120 fall. She said they would prefer we get 2-3 bids even if we want the town to do it. We assign
121 our chosen person to RCCD who is the payee and will do the contracts. Mr. Major mentioned
122 the access through Hersey where the tree was cut. They will install a gate, but need to get
123 access. They would like to put boulders at the back of the parking lot. Then at the end of Mr.
124 Beucler's trail, they would like to put a gate there. You can actually drive in there. Then at
125 the far end of the property they will install another gate. If we do it now, it is free, if NRCS
126 points it out later, the town pays for it. They are hoping to get it all done this fall.

127
128 The Trout Unlimited project is dead for Sandown.

129
130 Mr. Butler would like to suggest Champion Construction be one of the bidders. Knuuttenen
131 had concerns about the width of the parking area; right now you have to back out onto Odell
132 Road. Members further discussed parking. Mr. Major explained Ms. Smart's plans.

133
134 **New Business**

135 Mr. Butler noted going into the Fremont Road town forest off Odell road, the access road
136 needs some maintenance. There were wetland crossings constructed several years ago, but
137 with the dry conditions, they are starting to rot. It would help the fire trucks get up there as
138 well. Maybe do at least to the wildlife opening.

139
140 **MOTION:** Mr. Traeger made a motion to get pricing on maintenance for the road from
141 Odell Road to the wildlife opening. Mr. Major seconded the motion. Mr. Butler abstained.
142 The motion passed.

143

144 Mr. Traeger noted that Ms. Paladino was planning a “walk-tober” event. They will plan
145 themed walks on multiple properties. The themes include one with the historical society,
146 geocaching, forestry, wetlands and possibly a limited mobility walk.

147

148 **MOTION:** Mr. Traeger made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Major seconded the motion. All
149 members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned 8:50 p.m.

150

151 Respectfully Submitted,



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153

Andrea Cairns