

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
February 1, 2016

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Dave Perkins Scott A. Young
Randy Jacunski Kerry Omand Irving Johnson
Guests: Mimi Jost Eric Rowe

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:08 pm. A motion was made by Harmony and seconded by Randy to accept the January 2016 **minutes**. Approved.

Guest Presentations Eric Rowe came to the meeting to continue last month's discussion about his proposal to bury power lines across approximately 80 feet of the Evans Mountain conservation easement. He distributed copies of emails from Harmony forwarding a reply from Dan Kern who basically said that Bear-Paw would consider any written plan presented to it if the Commission requests it. The Commission's discussion included general approval of the burial of the powerlines, but hesitation about the proposed parking lot. Perhaps a widening of the road to allow for parallel parking along the side at that site and a more solid base in the area now used for parking near the cemetery could be considered. Planting natural vegetation over the fill area to prevent erosion is another option. A written plan and map are needed from Eric before we can move on this. Scott is doing a site visit Tuesday and will convey this to Eric. It would be helpful to have a conservation plan for the town owned portion of Evans Mountain from Charlie Moreno before we make decisions on the parking areas.

Continuing Business

IRCR: Randy is monitoring the trails for blow-downs.

Evans Mountain: No one knows who has flagged the unauthorized trail from the south peak of Evans to the Ledges. Dan Kern is concerned that it may cross some fragile ecological areas.

Town Forest: The Town Forest parking lot and trails are showing lots of signs of use so far.

New Business:

Bobcat season - letter from group. Sue Barnes was absent this evening attending the Fish and Game's open discussion on the proposed hunting and trapping of bobcats. We were wondering if she and perhaps Bruce Smith would be willing to put together a letter from the commission about this proposal. The Commission is overwhelmingly opposed to the proposal to allow the hunting or trapping of bobcats at this time.

Annual Report: Harmony will write a draft and Liz will assist.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 7 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page