

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
October 4, 2016

Present: Liz Evans Carolyn Page Dave Perkins Harmony Anderson Scott A. Young
Randy Jacunski Kerry Omand Susan Barnes Bruce Smith
Guests: Mimi Jost

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:10 pm. A motion was made by Liz and seconded by Harmony to accept the September 2016 **minutes** with the discussed changes. Approved as amended.

Guest none

DES Applications none

Continuing Business

IRCR no news.

Evans Mountain The commission had an update and discussion about our negotiations with Bear –Paw’s Land Committee over the location of the link trail. By the end of the month the committee will consider and hopefully approve of the trail that was walked in September. Scott reports recent ATV activity making a mess of the wetlands at the base of the mountain. He thinks they came in from the O’Brien property. That access needs to be blocked. ATV riders need written permission from property owners and can be held responsible for damages. Liz will notify the police about this.

Town Forest Charlie Moreno is working with NRCS and Scott to find a location for a small landing area in lieu of the original road design for the Neil Mooers Loop trail. Scott said it will be a small area just down from the trail with room enough for a truck turn around and a log landing.

A work day was scheduled for the Spencer Smith Trail to remove the fire pits. It will be either the 15th or 16th of October. Scott will let us know. Scott checked online for references to the trail and the use of fire pits and found a number of entries. Signs stating “No Overnight Parking”, “No Camping”, and “No fires on Conservation Land” were discussed. Bruce will find out if Fish and Game have any of these signs made up. Liz will talk to the police about the no overnight parking to enlist their help in enforcing it.

Other Harmony will do the interview with Daniel Dupee. Liz will get the signs for the property.

No news on the dock violation situation.

A discussion on the Selectmen’s budget proposal brought to light our need for funds for the following: plowing parking areas, signs for the forests, paint for trail marking, postage, locks and keys for the gates barring access roads, and conference fees. We will gather some figures for our next meeting. Liz will talk to Don Clifford about plowing this year and estimated costs.

The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions is November 12. So far, Sue said she would like to go.

MOTION: Harmony moved that we cover the funding of the NHACC convention fee for Sue plus another person. Dave seconded. Approved.

New Business Scott Young will be addressing a Smithsonian group conference in Edgewater Maryland this month about our work in the Town Forest. He would like some help with his expenses. MOTION: Harmony moved that we pay \$330 for Scott's flight, vehicle and room. Kerry seconded. Approved.

Conservation Lands GIS layer update. Liz displayed a map of the Strafford Conservation Lands and showed where the new ones needed to be added. At this point, 27% of the town land is conserved. George Lovejoy bought the Tisher property that had been offered to the town.

The Lay Lakes Report and "Landscaping at the Water's Edge" books are a gift to us from the Camp Owners Association.

A motion was tabled earlier this year about our contribution to the Bennett's Island Project. Harmony reopened the discussion so Bear-Paw could have a figure to work with. We originally thought we'd like to offer \$50,000.00. After a discussion, \$30,000.00 was settled on with additional funds if needed. MOTION: Dave made a motion to fund the Bennett's Island Project to begin with \$30,000.00. Scott seconded. Approved

Next Meeting: Monday, November 7 7:00 pm. Town Hall
Work Day: October 15 or 16

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page