

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
November 7, 2016

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Dave Perkins Scott A. Young
Kerry Omand
Guests: Mimi Jost Phil Auger Don Clifford Bob Shone

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:06 pm. A motion was made by Scott and seconded by Harmony to accept the October 2016 **minutes**. Approved.

Guest Presentations Don Clifford asked about plowing the IRCR and Town Forest parking lots. Discussion was deferred until the budget proposal. His other concern is about horses going over a stone crossing of a seasonal brook in the Bunker Road area of the IRCR and subsequent erosion. A bridge needs to be installed by the snow mobile club hopefully funded by a Recreational Trails Program Grant. Phil is willing to start the design process of the bridge.

DES Applications – Labrecque, Map 4, Lot 14-2, Drake Hill Road; note violation complaint and abutter concerns; Town has issued a cease and desist.

Bob Shone and Phil Auger enumerated the problems on this property located across Drake Hill Road from the base of Whig Hill. This property has come up for discussion earlier in the year. Without proper permitting, the owners have violated the basic rules of wet land crossings. Liz will write a letter to DES listing our concerns after our site visit. The Commission has permission to inspect the site. Site visit: Sunday at 10:00.

Continuing Business

IRCR Don Clifford reported deer stands on the Bedford Property. The owners of the stands should have permission, but are acceptable if they are detachable.

Evans Mountain Mimi has monitored the property and put Bear-Paw medallions on the perimeters.

Kerry reported that Eric Rowe has removed the boulders from the snowmobile trail and replaced them with chain gates on both sides of Evans Mountain Road at his own expense.

Harmony said that Bear-Paw has approved the latest trail proposal that goes from the Ledges down the mountain to the snowmobile trail.

Town Forest Carolyn read a letter from Andy Fast, county extension forester, who is looking for knowledgeable people to work with him on a survey of all the town forests in NH. He wants someone with institutional knowledge about the history and management of the town lands. Scott and Liz volunteered. Carolyn will email Andy with their addresses.

Carolyn and the Wednesday Hiking group cleaned up some of the fire pits along the Spencer Smith trail. Scott and Mimi finished the job. The Commission had discussed signs about no overnight parking. Bruce emailed that the signs we wanted did not already exist. Liz said that this sort of sign requires the backing of a town ordinance. We considered producing a sign like the Grange Parking Lot: No Parking from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Other No news on the dock violation situation.

Harmony said that the Boy Scouts cleaned up the area around the old foundation on the School District Property and showed a picture of them with 12 bags of trash. They want to return in the spring to finish.

The Selectmen's budget proposal is due in December. We reviewed our budget proposal for the coming year including; annual snow plowing of the IRCR and Strafford Town Forest parking areas, annual Conservation Commission attendance for 2 and misc. mowing, other conference attendance and dues.

MOTION: Harmony moved that we have the parking lots to the IRCR and Town Forest plowed. Carolyn seconded. Approved.
Sue Barnes will be going to the NHACC conference.

New Business none

Next Meeting: Monday, December 5 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page