

Conservation Minutes for January 27, 2016

Present: Jim Barker, Chairman, Rickey Poor, Dale Rook, Steven Wilkie, Bill Gallagher, John Berry, Frank Parks, Corey Fitch, Deanna Fitch, John Hammond

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Jim Barker, Chair

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dale Rook and seconded by Bill Gallagher. The minutes were approved as presented.

Gap Rd Scenic Rd Petition – Jen Schad has visited Marion Stone to review the petition to name Gap Rd. a “scenic road”. Marion approves of the idea. Jim passed a petition around that Jen had prepared for those who wanted to sign so the issue will be on the Town's warrant for this year.

Frank Parks moved, and Dale Rook seconded a motion to pay the NHACC annual dues of \$266 out of our regular budget.

Dale moved, and Frank seconded a motion to pay the SPNHF \$25 for a year's membership. Jim mentioned an interesting article in this winter's SPNHF journal on people's connection to the land.

CREA – The beaver baffle and pipe are not working to control the water levels. It was reported that the Town Crew pulled the grate out as it was getting blocked and also removed the culvert to use in a project by Center Church. This culvert was given to the Town by Troy Simino for the CREA site. There is concern that heavy equipment may have been used. It was reported that the beaver baffle box had collapsed on one side but was still working until the culvert was removed. The Select-board was not aware that the Town Crew had done this and have said that it will be fixed.

The Commission discussed ways it might be more pro-active. These thoughts included meeting with the Road Agent at least when newly appointed and perhaps more often. Having a sign by the beaver baffle explaining what it is and how it works.

Town Meeting – We will pull together some displays. Bill and Frank will help. The Conservation Award was reviewed.

Distant Hill Gardens – Bill mentioned “Distant Hill Gardens” in Walpole NH has an informative website and they also offer workshops. <http://www.distanthillgardens.org/>

New Members – We have one opening for an alternate. Bill has one person he wants to approach before we mention it in “Connect Cornish”.

Land Monitoring – We have 7 properties we are responsible for. One, “White Swan Farm” is on the market. After it is sold a couple of members of the Commission plan on meeting with the new owners.

Jim will contact the UVLT to see if they have a GPS boundary map of the Niedecker property. We don't have one for that property.

There was a short discussion on whether the Commission should consider working with the UVLT and have them take over one (or more) of the properties where we are the principal easement holder. Pros and cons were reviewed.

Water Committee Plan- The draft plan was presented. It would include some baseline testing. A list of possible labs is being compiled. Regina Barker is willing to write a/some grants that would help cover lab fees for the water testing.

Dale Rook moved and Bill G. seconded the motion that we adopt the water plan. Plan is attached to the minutes. Frank P. wanted to be sure that we have clear guidelines as to what we are tracking. Steve Wilkie will work at compiling the results. The plan was adopted.

Education Committee - members felt that another "TICK TALK" presented by Frank would be a good spring program. There was discussion about a "Fishing Day". Frank feels late May is a good time. We will decide in February as to whether we will move ahead on this.

Conn. River Watershed Council, Upper Valley Section – This group meets 6 times per year. Steve W has been on it but he has resigning. Jim asked if anyone was interested. Jim is willing to serve on this committee.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Dale Rook and seconded by Frank Parks. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectively submitted,
Rickey Poor