

Hebron Conservation Commission
Approved Minutes
April 28, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Asst. Chair Suzanne Smith. Present were Bruce Barnard, Mavis Britelli (alt), Curtis Mooney (alt), Patrick Moriarty and George Andrews.

Excused absence: Martha Twombly

Mavis was elevated to full member.

Minutes of March meeting were reviewed. Bruce made a motion to accept minutes as written. George seconded and all approved.

Permits: No permits at this time.

Town Forest

Trail work: Discussion of trail work to be done by Nate. Since he now has a f/t job, he is only available weekends. Martha and Suzanne are keeping in touch with him and George will be called by Nate to assist with trail work. No workdays scheduled at this time.

Camera: Suzanne reported on what the critter cam in Town Forest has recorded. Discussion of what other conservation /town owned properties where camera could be placed and putting photos on HCC website. Bruce has animal photos taken at his house that he will share.

Timber harvesting: Continued discussion of timber harvesting in town forest. George suggested an article in the newsletter to educate about the town forest and timber harvesting.—educational and neutral. This could be published before a public meeting is scheduled. We have more resource maps and reports now which could be helpful at a public meeting. George will review the conservation easement, the deed and what we really voted on when we purchased the property (Town Report for that year); he will then report back to Conservation Commission.

Further ways to educate public on timber harvesting (pros and cons) discussed.

- Presentation by Bruce Schweigler on timber harvesting or a representative from Timberland Owners Association.
- Movie screening of "The People's Forest: The Story of the White Mountain National Forest ."
- Movie screening information about forest fires.

Cockermouth River Work Plan for Tree removal: Bruce spoke with NRCS, Grafton County Conservation District office. He reported that it is optimum to cut trees at or before they are at a 45 degree angle. Trees should be pulled out of river to let stream bank flow. To start, we need to do field

work, beginning at Town Forest Bridge and ending at Braley Road Bridge to evaluate how many trees. Once we have this information complete with photos, we can approach the Conservation District for review and see if there are matching funds available to complete the project. Nate may still be able to do some of this work. Suzanne will contact Nate.

Bruce inquired about town liability for volunteers working in town forest or along the Cockermouth. Is there a hold harmless agreement to reduce town risk that participants could sign? Patrick noted that volunteers at town events are not covered by town liability policy. Mavis said that Newfound Pathways has an expensive liability policy which covers volunteers. Further research into this issue and an agreement need to be pursued.

Reports on events attended: Suzanne reported on the Wildlife Action Plan workshop in Plymouth that she attended last week. The state WAP is being updated and Fish and Game is looking for feedback. About 30-35 people participated.

Bruce reported on the Erosion Control Workshop that he attended in Concord last week. He found it informative and explained new methods of bank stabilization which could be useful on the Cockermouth. These SOXX have already been used in Hebron by DOT and town road crew doing culvert work.

George and Pat borrowed books on trail maintenance to review.

Upcoming events: May 14--Newfound Conservation Plan presentation by Dan Sundquist. Area conservation commissions invited as well as town boards. Meeting to be held in Land Use Room.

Suzanne shared brochure from NH Lakes and reminded members of TOA annual meeting and the NH Method Wetlands workshop.

Mavis made a motion to adjourn, George seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smith, Asst. Chair