

Hebron Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes October 28, 2015

Chair, Martha Twombly, called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Present were Martha Twombly, Suzanne Smith, George Andrews, Bruce Barnard, and Mavis Brittelli (alt). Mavis was elevated to full member status.

Guests: David and Stacy Darlington, North Groton Road, Groton.

Minutes: Mavis made a motion to accept the September minutes. Bruce seconded. All concurred.

Permits: No permits to review.

Cockermouth River: Discussion of the river and concerns about erosion, trees and buffers. Martha recognized the Darlington who explained the issues on their property which abuts the river at the far west end of Hebron. Suzanne explained the purpose of the tour on October 31. Department of Environmental Services experts, Gene Forbes of the Water Division, Collis Adams, Wetlands Bureau and Shane Cziski, Fluvial Geomorphologist will observe 2-3 sites along the river and offer their expert opinions. Members of the Conservation Commission, Selectboard and the public are invited to join the tour which will commence at the Town Offices at 10 am, Friday October 31.

Mavis reported that she has been in contact with many of the landowners who abut the Cockermouth upstream of Braley Road and almost all agreed to having us walk their land to record trees at risk of falling into the river.

Town Forest:

Trail work: Nate is still working on the blue trail in the Town Forest. Martha and George worked with him earlier this month. Martha outlined on the map approximately where the current route lies.

Mowing: Martha met with Everett Begor to clarify future mowing in the Town Forest. The mowing plan will be put into writing with copies to Selectboard and Everett.

Winter Activities: Discussion of a winter snowshoe event in the Town Forest and whether to hire a professional to lead the group explaining wildlife sign or whether Newfound Trackers might do this. George stated that we have this wonderful resource and introducing community members to its many options for recreation should be part of what we as a Conservation Commission do. Martha will contact Rick VandePoll and Suzanne will contact other members of Newfound Trackers. This event which will be scheduled for January or February would be contingent on snow and availability of church community hall. Suzanne suggested an easy walk, perhaps along the river, followed by soup, bread and hot cider in the church basement. The "outdoors" part of the event could be as short as 1 to 1 ½ hours if the day is very cold, or longer if the weather is more pleasant. This could be gauged the day of the event. Suzanne will check with church on availability before next meeting.

Other events mentioned by members that the Conservation Commission might sponsor are having Ben Kilham do his bear presentation or have a presentation on Owls (complete with live owls). George will contact the people who do the presentation and the church to confirm that live owls would be acceptable in the Community Hall. Suzanne mentioned that the Community Hall is used for a variety of things and it is sometimes challenging to find dates which do not conflict with either church or other community activities.

Martha reported that Green Acre Woodland now owns the Frazen property and that the Society for the Protection of NH Forests holds the conservation easement.

Mavis attended the Emerald Ash Borer talk in Alexandria and reported that the invasive insect which kills ash trees is moving north and will soon be in Grafton County. More traps are being set up so that landowners can be proactive in harvesting their trees before they are destroyed.

Martha presented the 2016 Conservation Commission budget to the Selectboard recently and they approved the following proposal:

2016 DRAFT BUDGET	10/15/2015
Secretary wages	\$300
Seminars/Training	\$600
Dues/Subscriptions	\$300
Notices	\$0
Supplies	\$50
Books/Periodicals	\$100
Resources, Trails, Bridges	\$2,500
Signs/Kiosk	\$400
Maintenance/trees	\$750
Total	\$5,000

The NH Association of Conservation Commissions will hold their annual conference on Saturday November 7 in Pembroke. Both Mavis and Suzanne will attend and report back to the HCC.

Martha reported that the Grafton County Conservation District is hosting a Pollinator Summit at the Grappone Center in Concord on November 2. The topic is "Global Issues, Local Solutions."

Martha reported that the Hebron Academy Building Committee held a public meeting last month and are beginning a local fundraising campaign. A "Friends of the Academy" committee was formed to implement this campaign. Martha suggested that an "Identify the Big Trees in Hebron" challenge might be a good idea. Encourage Hebronites to nominate a tree and get others to help sponsor that tree with dollars to the go to this cause.

There being no further business to discuss, Mavis made a motion to adjourn and George seconded it. All concurred and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smith, Interim Secretary