

Hebron Conservation Commission Minutes
April 26, 2017

Martha called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Present: Martha Twombly, co-chair, Suzanne Smith co-chair, Bruce Barnard, and Curtis Mooney (alt).

Excused: George Andrews, Patrick Moriarity.

Curtis was elevated to full member.

Minutes: Bruce made a motion to accept March minutes as amended. Suzanne seconded. All concurred.

Permits:

Wetlands permit application: Richard Aho, 72 Indian Point Road. Perched beach. Martha signed off on permit so that it could be expedited. Conservation Commission members reviewed plans and approved the expediting process.

Reviewed wetlands permit which was approved with conditions by DES for Little Bog Farm, Owner--Catherine Barrett.

Hebron Town Forest:

Martha recommended that we pursue the Community survey which was put on hold during the winter. She will contact George about taking the next step.

Bruce expressed his concerns about the ability of those who are not able to walk in the forest and how the town can accommodate those people. The picnic table on the bluff is only accessible if you can walk 1/4 mile on the trail to get there. Bruce volunteered his little excavator to improve a small parking area near the picnic table. The group discussed options such as opening the gate occasionally to vehicle traffic only as far as picnic table. Curtis suggested offering a sticker/permit for folks who cannot walk up to the picnic area. The survey once completed, will be helpful to the Commission as it will let us know how many people are interested in this option or what other interests people have regarding use of Town Forest. Any changes in access would need to be brought before the Selectboard.

Kiosk: Martha would like to add to the information at the kiosk. She suggested a poster of birds and plants found in Town Forest along with a list. The Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) which was completed previously, as well as the Rapid Ecological Assessment completed by Rick VandePoll would be sources for this information.

Bridge work: Bruce recommended that we submit a letter to the Selectboard in reference to the bridge and the base/wood (toe kicks) that needs to be replaced. Bridge also needs painting. Report from DOT will be referenced in letter. Martha and Suzanne will work on this.

Martha suggested that we hire a professional to lead a naturalist walk in the town forest. Curtis suggested taking photos of plants etc. for a slide show after the walk. Bruce suggested an indoor program in the church basement.

Camp Berea will again be sending volunteers to work with the Conservation Commission on May 28. Last year, with almost 40 volunteers and 5 teams, it was challenging to supervise and cover the designated areas well. The teenagers are city kids, and Suzanne suggested focusing on the Cockermouth Ledge trail so that a thorough job can be completed. Martha

recommended less volunteers. We will need to ask for donations of rakes, loppers etc. as we did last year.

Martha asked Bruce about using his small excavator to place stepping stones at the stream crossings on the Spectacle Pond trail. Bruce agreed walk up and look at it. Suzanne offered to contact County Extension about a bridge builder.

Discussion by Bruce about timber harvesting in Town Forest. Conservation Commission wrote a letter a few months ago requesting that the Selectboard pursue updating the Forest Management Plan.

There being no further business to discuss, Suzanne made a motion to adjourn. Curtis seconded and meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smith, Acting Secretary