

**Hebron Conservation Commission
Minutes
January 25, 2012
Approved March 28, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

In attendance: Martha Twombly, David Goldthwaite, Bruce Barnard, Greg Melton, Art Cummings

Permits

1. Green Acre Woodlands – DES notification of Forestry behind Cilley Brook
2. Ron Johns – DES notification of Forestry on George Road

Report from DES re: timber trespass and shoreline infraction on the Cockermouth River. This is regarding David Goldthwaite's property. The DES letter from Jeff Blesarcheck regarding Scott Benting's work has been documented by DES on Dec. 9, 2011. and said there will be no further enforcement action at this time. David said he has not heard from Mr. Benting, and consistent with his understanding from his meeting with Jeff, the purpose of the letter was to notify Mr. Benting to stop any other activities and avoid any other work without the proper permits.

Spec Pond

The Hebron CC received a letter from the Spec Pond Association stating their work was complete and DES had signed off on the dam and the dike.

Town Warrant subjects

There was a discussion of the three brooks the HCC requested adding to the town's "designated" rivers and names agreed were: Sleepy Hollow Brook, Onaway Brook and Mowglis Brook. Martha had these put on the NRI maps and available at the Planning Board hearing.

Martha will draft an annual HCC report for the Town Warrant.

Ecological Assessments

Martha suggested that the ecological assessment proposed for the Bean Sanctuary in the 2012 budget be expanded to include the Marina property which has been conserved through an easement held by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and donated to the NLRA by Andy McLane. Martha will contact both parties for permission, and ask Rick Van de Poll for an estimate.

NRI updates

Bruce suggested having a joint meeting with the Historical Society and the Heritage Commission for a historic layer for the NRI maps. Martha will speak with Alan Barnard and Ron Collins – possibly at the March meeting.

Budget review – tabled until the Feb. meeting

Hebron Town Forest building

There is a great desire to remove this building and clean up the parking area for installation of the large permanent Town Forest sign. Discussion ensued about removal of the building on Groton Road by a local work party. Martha met with Selectboard to ask if the CC could hold a work party to demolish the building. They replied that there would be a liability, and the SB would not allow this. Martha to contact Chris Olecsak & Dumpster Depot for estimates for demolition and removal.

New CC Members

All members are encouraged to look for potential CC members.

Art Cummings moved/David Goldthwaite seconded motion to adjourn. Unanimous.
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Twombly

Hebron Conservation Commission
Meeting minutes
March 23, 2012
Approved with corrections 4/12/12

In attendance: Martha Twombly, David Goldthwaite, Bruce Barnard, Greg Melton.
Guest: Suzanne Marshall

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Administrative

Greg Melton was brought on as full member.

Minutes

January minutes were reviewed and approved MT/DG/unanimous.

Permits

There was one permit request. Dick Cowern presented a Dredge and Fill Application request for repair of a stone wall and concrete stairway on his property at 516 West Shore Road. Bruce Barnard stepped down as a commission member for the discussion himself as he is assisting with the DES Application. The damage occurred due to the movement of ice on the lake during the winter. Dick has a P & S agreement ready to be signed for the sale of the house and property, so he requested that the HCC vote to authorize Martha to sign an expedited application.

Dick reported that he was speaking with Dale Kierstadt from DES to determine whether a full Dredge and Fill application was needed, or a Permit by Notification. As soon as he had the answer, Bruce would complete the application. David made a motion to authorize Martha to review and sign the completed application, Greg seconded, motion passed.

CC Membership

Suzanne Marshall was introduced as a potential new commission member. She picked up background information and will get back in touch with the Conservation Commission.

David Goldthwaite announced that he was stepping down as a Commission member after serving 10 years, and would be interested in continuing to participate in specific projects by request. Members thanked him for his knowledge and dedication. He reminded the commission that the pile of barbed wire still needs to be picked up at the HTF.

Joint Selectboard and Conservation Commission meeting

Ellie has sent an invitation to the Cons Comm to meet with the SB on April 11, Martha encouraged all members to attend.

Mail

Reminder that Saving Special Places Conference is on April 14, and the Grafton County Annual Meeting is April 11.

NLRA/LRCT conservation land (former marina)

The Naturally Newfound Fair will be held at the site on June 30. Clean-up date TBD.

Martha reported that she had suggested to Boyd Smith (Executive Director) and Rosemary D'Arcy (Chair of the Board) that the NLRA consider utilizing the white house at the Hebron Town Forest as a temporary building on the property if we could get it moved there.

David suggested that also available may be the former Iacacci house on the Hebron Town Beach, as the Beach Committee had no current use for it.

Hebron Town Forest

Building demolition option.

Bruce reported from a conversation with CN Wicher of Warren, that a dumpster to accommodate the demolition of the white building may cost in the range of \$5000 for 4 dumpster-loads. He said state law requires an asbestos permit (which was \$400-500 based on Rodney Adams garage). Bruce estimated it would take 3-4 days and have a total cost of approximately \$7,000 – 8,000. Bruce suggested contacting the NH Municipal Association to ask about insurance to cover the demolition work. The cabinets will go to the Hebron Historical Society (Ron Collins).

NLRA option – see above.

Trails Day

The HCC would like to create a trail from Spec Pond above the houses on the NE side of the pond, to connect with the existing trail, but not go through dooryards. The HCC was unable to select a date, and the Spec Pond Association and the Circle Camp would like to help on this project.

Trail Names

Martha noted that the yellow trail and blue trail do not have names, and asked members to offer suggestions for the next meeting. She said the “blue trail” has beautiful waterfalls and vistas, and Bruce suggested “Cascade” or “Vista” Trail for consideration.

Natural Resource Inventory

Martha said she had contacted Ron Collins and Alan Barnard about GPS locations for historic properties for a Historic NRI layer. She reported that the LRPC had only the village district mapped. She will invite Ron and Alan to the next Cons Comm meeting to see about accomplishing a more detailed inventory over the summer.

Other Business

Bruce reported the town is considering creating additional dry hydrants to serve Braley Road, Beechwood, Ledges, Hobart Hill, and High Cliff Circle.

HCC officers will be elected at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm

Next meeting: April 27, 2012

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Twombly



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Hebron Conservation Commission

Approved Meeting Notes

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

*Special Meeting Following the Joint Selectboard
and Conservation Commission Meeting*

Meeting was called to order at 8:30pm

In attendance: Suzanne Smith, Greg Melton, Bruce Barnard, David Goldthwaite, Martha Twombly

Martha said this special meeting was called to vote to approve Dr. Rick Van de Poll's revised proposal to perform a Rapid Ecological Assessment on the Charles Bean Wildlife Area and the NLRA (former marina) property on the Cockermonth River in Hebron (@ cost of \$1500).

Suzanne made a motion, David seconded to approve the proposal, all voted in favor.

Martha will sign and send the form to Rick in the mail tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Approved with corrections at the 4-23-12 Hebron Conservation Commission

**Hebron Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2012
Approved as Amended
May 22, 2012**

In attendance: Martha Twombly, Bruce Barnard, Suzanne Smith
Secretary: Susan Jackson

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Administrative

Martha will write a letter to the Selectboard informing them that Greg Melton is now a full member.

Minutes

March minutes were reviewed and amended as follows:
under Hebron Town Forest: The cabinets will go to the Hebron Historical **Society**. Under Other Business: The Town **is considering** creating additional dry hydrants ---
Minutes were approved as amended. BB/SS, unan.

Minutes of the special meeting following the Joint Selectboard and Conservation Commission on April 11, 2012 were also reviewed with the following change: to approve Dr. Rick Van de Poll's **revised proposal (\$1500)** for the Rapid Ecological Assessment of Bear Sanctuary - **NLRA property (former marina)**. Minutes approved as amended. SS/BB, unan

Permits

There was one permit request. Raymond Hendrickson is requesting to repair asphalt and a storm drain and replace them with bluestone and like kind and provide 20' X 20' flat area supported by 20 sq ft of boulders. Total Impact area: 1750 sq ft. This was approved with conditions on 4/18/2012.

Bruce Barnard stated that Dick Cowern was very thankful for the expedited permit. The CC had waived the right to intervene within 30 days.

CC Membership

Suzanne Marshall, who was introduced at the March 23rd meeting as a potential new commission member, has declined to join at this time. There was discussion regarding new members and that they would be welcomed.

Martha will send a note to the newspaper to this affect.

Hebron Town Forest

May 20th was the date chosen to flag the trail from Spectacle Pond,

going around the houses. Martha had contacted Nate Preisendorfer to assist in scoping out the trail to learn the process; i.e. what works and what does not. He was recommended by Wendy Weisinger (SPNHF forester) and his charge is \$160/day. There was discussion regarding GPS maps and simple trail maps. Bruce suggested that if we use GPS, we should use a system compatible with software that already exists. **Suzanne to contact the Spectacle Pond Association and Kathy Kearns of the Circle Program regarding May 20th.**

Trail Days

Family Fun Day, August 18th, Suzanne will lead a hike to the Town Forest. The Land and Watershed Committee plans to do hikes instead of workshops.

Permission has been granted from Bill Robertie, NH Audubon and Lee and Polly Alexander for a trail along the Cockermouth across their properties. **Martha to send letters to make it official.**

Building Options

The white building is being offered free to anyone who will move it. The red building (Geddis) will be used by the Hebron Fire Department to store water rescue items. They are in the process of installing a dock at the Hebron Town Beach where their rescue boat would be docked.

Budget Review

Martha asked if we needed permission to roll any remaining Conservation Commission budget funds at year end into the Conservation Fund. Both Bruce and Suzanne said we would need a Warrant Article to be voted on at Town Meeting. Right now 50% of the Current Use Fund goes into the Conservation Fund and if more was to be put in, the Town would have to vote on it.

Natural Resource

Ron Collins plans to use GPS to locate the historic village buildings. **Bruce to map college road including the Township of Cockermouth.**

Other Business

On July 21st there will be a hike to the Hazelton property by the Forest Society, during a fund-raising campaign, as the Hazeltons are selling a 275 acres conservation easement to the Society for the Protection of NH Forests. The Hebron Conservation agreed to co-sponsor this trip, and the Land and Watershed Committee will be asked to co-sponsor as well.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30. SS/BB, unan.

Respectfully submitted,
SUSAN W. JACKSON

Hebron Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2012
Approved 6/27/12 w/corrections

In attendance: Martha Twombly, Suzanne Smith, Greg Melton, John Lloyd
Secretary: Susan Jackson

Meeting called to order at 7:02

Martha mentioned that Dr. John Lloyd is thinking of becoming an alternate. Mavis Brettelli, who is interested in becoming involved, will be at the June meeting.

Minutes

Minutes of April 25 were reviewed and amended as follows:

- Under Hebron Town Forest:
- The correct spelling for Nate's name is Preisenderfer and it is Kathy **Kearns** and Spectacle Pond **Association**.
- Under Budget Review: Martha asked if we needed permission to roll **any remaining Conservation Commission budget funds at year end into** the Conservation Fund.
- Change Warranty to **Warrant**.
- Under Other Business: **conservation easement on 275 acres to Society for the Protection of NH Forests**.

Minutes approved as amended. SS/GM

Permits

Two "Intent to Cut" permits were submitted, as follows:

- Bruce Barnard's property behind Auto Air Plus but located on George Road and which abuts some marsh land. (2012-01167)
- The other permit is for Howard Oedel's property on George Road. (2012-01163)

Wade Reed is doing the logging on both of these properties and follows "best management" practices.

Both permits were approved with conditions by the Selectboard.

Hebron Town Forest

There was much discussion regarding trails, and trail maps.

Each trail has a different level of trail work needed. John mentioned having trail maps laminated and placed in a box to be borrowed by hikers and replaced after their hike. He will check with RP Williams regarding donation of the lumber.

It was also suggested that metal signs be used to mark the trails in order to keep people on the trails. Doug McQuilkin is willing to make signs for trails and asking people to stay on the trail. It was decided that the "White" trail will be called The Circle Trail and the "Blue" trail will be called the Cummings Mt. Trail. More thought is needed for a name for the "Yellow" trail.

Trail Days – the next trail day will be determined at a later date.

Conservation Projects

The Society for the Protection of NH Forests has signed a P&S to purchase a conservation easement on the 270-Hazelton Farm. The property has 30 acres of fields with 1/3 mile along the Cockermouth River. The remaining forested land is on both sides of Tenney Lane and has 1.5 miles along Wise Brook. This is a \$300,000 campaign involving grants from NH Fish & Game, Department of Environmental Services, and with small foundations, along with a local campaign to raise approximately \$150,000. A mail appeal will be sent to all towns around Newfound Lake in late summer.

Green Acre Woodlands is coming under protection with funds from the Federal Legacy Program and the Forest Society. Hopefully the land in Hebron will be conserved by the end of 2012 (approximately 1600 acres of over 6,000 total among Hebron, Plymouth, Rumney and Groton).

Budget Review

\$600 – Secretary wages - \$200 remaining

\$800 – seminars - \$685 remaining

\$200 – dues and subscriptions. The is member of NHTOA, and the NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists - \$50 remaining

\$200 – supplies - \$105 remaining

\$140 - Periodicals - \$140 remaining

\$2,000 – Resource Inventory - \$500 remaining (\$1500 Rick Van de Poll inventory of Charles Bean Sanctuary and NLRA land.)

\$500 – signs - \$340 remaining

\$500 – trail easements. Check with Bruce as he obtains easements for the snowmobile club
- \$500 remaining

Other Business

New definition of Prime Wetlands will be coming soon – 2 years in the making.

On Hebron Family Fun Day, August 11, Suzanne Smith will lead a hike to the Hebron Town Forest @ 11 am.

A hike to the Hazelton Farm is also planned for July 21st co-sponsored by the Hebron Conservation Commission and the NLRA as part of the Forest Society campaign.

More field trips would be a good idea.

June 18th Rapid Ecological assessment of the Bean Sanctuary, NLRA property

June 30th Naturally Newfound Fair will be held at the NLRA property (former Marina).

July 28th Hebron Fair

Nate Preisenderfer left us some trail training videos and other materials for our use.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10. SS/GM.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN W. JACKSON

Hebron Conservation Commission
Minutes ~ June 27, 2012
Approved July 25, 2012

Present: Martha Twombly, Suzanne Smith, Arthur Cummings, Greg Melton, Bruce Barnard, Patrick Moriarity, Mavis Brittelli & John Lloyd.

There were introductions for all the new alternate members.

Meeting minutes for May 22 were reviewed and approved w/corrections. SS/MB unanimous.

Permits. There were no permits

Trail along Cockermonth

Mavis described the trail that Brittelli's are working on along the Cockermonth on their property. A conservation youth group will be in the area for 1-2 weeks later this summer and they will help with trail building for Newfound Pathway group. Martha suggested talking with Mike Jones at UMass—the wood turtle specialist - about trail placement.

Review of Conservation Commission Budget

Members were given spread sheet showing expenses and budget for 2012 Cons. Com. Rick Van de Poll may have already done his Rapid Ecological Assessment for the Bean Sanctuary and NLRA land, but we have not received his report yet.

Included in budget are funds for easements for trail from Town Beach to Town Forest. Martha has received verbal approval from three landowners (Alexander, NH Audubon, Roberti) along the snowmobile trail and will research a template for written approval of easements so we can be more legal. Thus far, the easements are donated.

Martha asked that the Conservation Commission help pay for radio transmitters so that wood turtles can be monitored by Mike Jones of UMass. Cost of transmitters is \$150.00 each, and Mike suggested 10. Members want to have more information about the study such as will it be enough to buy 5 or do we need to purchase all 10 transmitters? How long do transmitters last? We know study will last 3 years. Martha will contact Mike and ask for a proposal for the July meeting.

Town Forest update

Martha reported that Everett will mow a path through field from entrance to Town Forest to Brittelli's corner so that folks can more easily walk up to Spectacle Pond. Also he will mow a trail to the picnic area on the upland near the river. The entire field will not be mowed until after nesting season is over in late August. This will protect birds and turtles.

Discussion of Town Forest trails – renaming the yellow trail. Suggestion is Cockermonth Ledge Trail. No date set for further trail work in July.

Bruce said he would contact the SB about inspecting the vertical struts on the Esty bridge. He thought they had been inspected in 2009, but not since.

Membership in Cons. Com.

With Patrick Moriarity on board we have 6 members on the Cons. Com. Hebron Town Ordinance states that the commission will have 5 members and up to 5 alternates. We have one too many. Travis has told a couple of people that he no longer has time to be on the commission. Martha will contact Travis for a formal resignation letter to make it official. Martha will contact the selectboard about reducing Patrick to an alternate member and adding Mavis Brittelli and John Lloyd as alternates.

Hazelton Land Conservation Campaign

Martha distributed campaign flyers about the Hazelton conservation project, with a discussion of the high conservation values on the property: water quality protection for the Cockermouth River and Wise Brook, wetlands protection, high quality wildlife habitat, managed forests, scenic resources, and focus area of many conservation plans and the NLRA Watershed Master Plan. Bruce noted that the land will have a conservation easement that will provide for taxes at the Current Use rate, and that the SPNHF pays taxes on all its reservations (such as the John Gemmill Forest).

The Conservation Commission has \$6,500 in our conservation fund that has come from land use change tax. She requests that Cons Com give \$1,000 or so towards conservation easement on Hazelton's land. Suzanne will research whether we need to have a town vote on this use of the funds. Cons Com will invite Brian Hotz of the Forest Society to do a presentation at the next meeting Cons Comm meeting for the public so that we can discuss this issue with all interested parties even if we don't need a town vote.

Other business

Bruce reported that he is now the chair of the Heritage Committee, and Mark Coulson is vice-chair. The Heritage Committee is hoping to begin mapping cultural resources (foundations, etc.) around Hebron to create another data layer to compliment the Natural Resource Inventory maps.

Suzanne will also research RSAs to assure that we are permitted to have 2 people on land use board & Conservation Commission.

Bob Wisnewski joined the meeting from the public to discuss recommendations for Hebron Town Forest trails, and submitted them in writing. These included: mowing one trail regularly to promote root growth of the grass, keep walkers on the path and pick up less ticks, make any wildlife in the path visible, reduce dust, and avoid ground-nesting birds. The Heb CC members thanked him and explained that these procedure were in place, and Everett had just started mowing the path.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 pm SS/BB, unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smith

Hebron Conservation Commission
Minutes – August 22, 2012
Approved 9/26/2012

Present: Martha Twombly, Suzanne Smith, Bruce Barnard, Arthur Cummings, Greg Melton, Mavis Brittelli, Patrick Moriarity and Sue Jackson, Secretary.

Meeting was opened at 7:00 by MT.

Art Cummings said he would like to become an alternate and have Pat Moriarity serve as regular member, as he would like to become more involved.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the July 25, 2012 meeting will be reviewed at our next meeting.

Permits

Mavis reported that trail work has been done on Paradise Point under the guidance of the Newfound Pathways. The trail starts downslope from the parking area.

MB had praise for the kids who did the work – great job!

Restoration Plan for Davis Farm – Mike Ethier submitted to DES a plan for the restoration of the Davis Farm property located at the end of Cooper Road. DES is responsible for monitoring the work. It was approved as submitted with conditions.

It was mentioned that there is a new beaver dam on the Cockermonth River below the Braley Road bridge. There was a short discussion of beaver dams and their effect on the environment.

Correspondence

A letter was received from the National Grid regarding cutting vegetation. The work is done according to best management practices.

UNH Extension Coverts has a training program presentation with videos. Work shops are available to volunteers who would like to be able to give talks about wild life in their local communities.

Charles Bean Sanctuary

Martha read from a report prepared by Dr. Rick Van de Poll that the beach area where people are docking boats there are rare thin-leaf sedge and small pond reeds (which can be better identified when they fruit – which should be shortly). The report also stated that the Sanctuary is an ideal place for Bald Eagle nesting.

Review and discussion of recommendations:

#1 weed watchers should look for milfoil in the old Marina. Native milfoil is okay.

#2 A yearly survey should be done of uplands and aquatic vegetation such as barberry, loose strife, buckthorn, bittersweet, honeysuckle, Japanese knot weed.

#3 A trail system into the Sanctuary should be discouraged. It is a potential site for Bald Eagle nesting.

#4 The NRLA property is a very sensitive site and should not support a trail system – even the present walking trail is in sensitive habitat areas. Discussions asked if possibly a board walk would be appropriate. The report recommends a water trail should be encouraged.

There was much discussion about inviting Rick Van de Poll to present his findings during a field trip on the properties. Arthur Cummings wondered how this will affect our budget. Martha thought it would be about \$400 for him to come. She will get an update on the budget. Martha felt it would be good for HCC to go out in the field with Rick and suggested we should invite him to our October 24 meeting or on Saturday, the 20th, with a limited group on site from 3:30 – 4:00 including NLRA, LRCT and reps from the Planning Board and ZBA.

#5 The sand bar should be a “no loading” zone. The oblate, sandy pond area is a potential nesting site for loons.

#6 Snowmobile trail. Bruce Barnard thinks this is not an issue as everything is frozen and not harmed and has come back every year since 1971.

It was stated that Hebron Conservation Commission has an advisory position for the Town of Hebron regarding recommendations. Following the site visit the Hebron CC will make recommendations.

Bruce said we should consider adopting these recommendations. He also felt that signs to the effect “that our priority is the wild life” should be put up; however, there was a concern from others that signs might upset people.

It was felt important that the information, along with what Rick has already done, should be made available at the Selectmen’s office, Town Clerk’s office and on the website.

Town Forest

In answer to a question raised, Martha stated that the Selectmen are in control of the Town Forest, and they do not plan to do anything at present. There is no master plan to put in trails. Selectperson Ellie Lonske said she would like to see the Town create a Recreation Committee with people from the different groups to discuss how the Town Forest is being used.

Martha Twombly would like to purchase a critter (animal) cam which costs about \$220. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

Budget

To be discussed at next meeting.

Other Business

A site visit on August 29th will be scheduled with the Selectmen and property owner to look at the upper NW side of Spectacle Pond to view land to be donated to Hebron. This property abuts and is surrounded on three sides by the Town Forest, which it would become part of.

Motion to adjourn was made by SS and 2nd by BB at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jackson, Secretary