

Hebron Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes March 27, 2013
Approved April 24, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:05. Present were Martha Twombly, Bruce Barnard, Mavis Brittelli, John Lloyd, Art Cummings and Pat Moriarty.

There was no meeting in Feb. 2013 due to stormweather.

Minutes of Jan. 2013 meeting were reviewed and accepted with minor corrections.

Permit review

The CC reviewed a letter dated Jan. 28, 2013 from Ridge Mauck of DES to Double E Land LLC to confirm receipt of the initial restoration monitoring report (per DES letter dated July 30, 2012), to determine compliance with RSA 482-A. The letter states that DES determined the initial restoration work was completed in accordance with the plan, and that DES may conduct another inspection at a later date.

Town Forest

Trails - Kim Sharp, land steward for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests on the Cockermouth Forest in Groton was introduced. He showed a historic map he had located in the 1946 AMC Guide that showed a trail from Spec Pond to the ledges above, and asked if the CC would be interested in having him open that trail into the town forest. He noted it met with a trail currently marked in blue flagging, and CC members confirmed that was a tentative location to an upper trail system in the Town Forest that was in design stages. Kim said he would work with Camp Pasquaney for the campers to help with the trail maintenance. Mavis told Kim about the trail they're working on their land too, and there was general consensus that there was widespread support for trails. Members also wish to avoid particularly sensitive wildlife habitat or unique natural communities per Rick Van De Polls study. Pat will bring the trail discussion to the selectboard.

Parking area – Bruce will map the approximately 15 x 20 space so the CC can make a site plan recommendation to the SB. Demolition of the white building is anticipated for April or May, and Martha will check with SB.

Brook crossings - Martha will contact RP Williams about materials. The CC needs to set a work date.

Website

Pat will check with the SB regarding website updating, responsibility and process.

Watershed Conference at PSU

Stream stabilization - Suzanne reported the conference was excellent, and she was particularly interested in a stream stabilization project that had received a \$15,000 grant on the Smith River. She estimated the entire cost around \$140,000 for 100' of work. A Shaun Sweeney was the presenter, and she will contact him to learn more. Since salmon used to spawn all the way to Groton, she asked about work in the Cockermonth River. Bruce noted that the most erosion is now occurring along a bank below the HTF bridge that is now bedrock. Martha noted there is active erosion along many of the Audubon fields. We would have to undergo more research along all reaches to prioritize erosion activities and priorities. There may be opportunities to engage Trout Unlimited, Martha noted they were helpful on the Hazelton project, and Chuck Beno is a member. And possibly NRCS wetlands funds.

Livermore Falls – Suzanne also reported that there is a Friends of the Pemi group forming from DRED, DES, Fish & Game, PSU, Rotaries and others to clean up Livermore Falls to become a more accessible and family-friendly recreation area. Activities include removing the hanging bridge, cleaning up trash, establishing a park with no alcohol allowed, and other improvements. There will be a public meeting on April 30, 2013 at the Plymouth Ice Arena.

Firing Range Request

John Fisher had requested permission to set up a firing range for emergency responder training in the Town Forest from the Selectboard, and the SB asked for CC input. Discussion found consensus from the CC members that the HTF is not an appropriate site for this type of activity for reasons of : public safety, noise pollution to the public and would disrupt significant high quality wildlife habitat (bobcat in ridgeline above), it is not compatible with recreation, and that lead shot would get into the environment.

Adjournment

AC/PM, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Twombly

Hebron Conservation Commission Meeting

April 24, 2013

Approved May 22, 13

Martha called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Present were Martha Twombly, Bruce Barnard, Pat Moriarty, Art Cummings (alt), Suzanne Smith, John Lloyd (alt) and Mavis Brittelli (alt).

Minutes of March 27 meeting were reviewed and corrections made. Bruce made a motion to accept the minutes as amended subject to permit date and title being verified. Pat seconded motion and motion passed unanimously.

Permits and Correspondence

Sue Jackson & Oak Corporation: DES has this on their agenda to review and inspect. Bruce reported that he is meeting with Jeff Blecharczyk, Andy McLane and Sue Jackson next week on the wetlands issue between the two abutters.

Reviewed Howard Odell 's Intent to Cut permit to harvest 50 acres.

Reviewed Curtis Mooney Intent to Cut permit to harvest 2 acres.

We have an invitation to the Food Safety Modernization Act update information session which will be held at PSU on Friday April 26 at 2 pm.

Website Martha will review to make sure that our minutes are up to date.

Bruce attended a meeting about the Newfound Lake Watershed Masterplan April 18, and in particular the aquifer in the area from Groton along the Cockermonth River to the Lake. Martha said it would be a good idea if Conservation Commission was made aware of this type of presentation so that we could have a member in attendance.

Hebron Town Forest –

Demolition of building – Casey is filing permits with May 6 demo date planned. Shelves have been removed from building and granite steps will be moved to Donna Estes' yard. Martha, Pat and Casey will get together to discuss cleaning up the area near the building and whether the cost of that will be included in his estimate. The value of the iron scrap behind the building may be worth enough so that it will cover the cost of Casey hauling it away.

Sign--Mavis discussed frame for sign with Mike Lemieux who has offered to build it. Bruce volunteered to dig the holes to stabilize the frame. Pat will inform Selectboard that Bruce has volunteered to do this. After building has been taken down, we can evaluate where to put the parking area and sign.

Parking area--Discussion of what to use as base material for parking lot. Conservation Commission will do a site visit once the building has been taken down.

Hemlock benches—Martha is interested in building benches for Audubon and Town Forest. Possible date for this is over Memorial Day weekend.

Bridges for Stream Crossings on trail to Spectacle Pond---RP Williams has offered hemlock boards to be used. Martha has designs and John will continue researching. Martha will talk to Dave Jacques about sawing logs in his sawmill.

Mike Jones Study –Martha and John joined Dr. Jones, Dr. Liz Willey also from UMass. and Mike Marchand from NH Fish & Game Dept. last week performing the year’s first survey of the Cockermouth River. They reported on what they learned from Dr. Jones. Conservation Commission members will have another opportunity to go out with him again later this summer. Cons Com will talk to landowners along the river to request they maintain a 50 foot vegetated, non-mowed buffer to prevent active bank erosion and create riparian areas to enhance wildlife habitat. Martha will talk to Everett about not mowing closer than 50 feet to river on the Hebron Town Forest land.

Other Business

Birdwatching in New Hampshire – Eric Masterson formerly of Audubon is doing Birdwatching presentations around the state. He can be reached at eric.masterson@myfairpoint.net.

Division of Forests & Lands is doing a series of forestry trainings in the Town Forest.

April 27 -- forest fire training for fire departments. They will not be starting fires.

May 11 -- chain saw training. Discussion of which trees to take down. Martha, Suzanne and other members will review the area and flag it for Bill Roberti, Fire Warden and the Fire Department.

September 7 -- map and compass training also in the Town Forest.

Pat reported that National Grid notified the town that they are doing upgrades to the power lines running through Hebron this summer. He stated that the town requested no herbicides be sprayed in the area.

Pat reported that the Selectboard is considering offering land adjacent to the public safety building on Groton Road as community garden space.

Bruce made a motion to adjourn and Pat seconded. Motion passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Smith, acting secretary

Hebron Conservation Commission Minutes

August 28, 2013

Approved 10-23-13

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Martha Twombly, Suzanne Smith, Pat Moriarty, Bruce Barnard, Mavis Brittelli (alt) and John Lloyd (alt). John was elevated to full member.

Minutes of July meeting were reviewed. After corrections were made, Bruce made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. John seconded. All concurred.

Permit Review: (1) Tannery Brook near fire station. Re-establish bank by dredging erosion material. DES approved.

(2) Jackson property/Oak Corporation. Letter from Gregory Smith representing Oak Corp to Jeff Blecharczyk, compliance officer for DES. Continued discussion of a jurisdictional dispute.

Budget: Discussion postponed until next month.

Conferences: Bruce recommends that the Conservation Commission pay for Casey Kuplin and he to attend the NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists at cost of \$50 each. Topic for meeting is stormwater management which will be helpful for highway department and conservation commission. Suzanne made a motion that the Cons Com pay for their participation. Pat seconded the motion and all concurred.

Hebron Town Forest: Suzanne described trail work on yellow – Cockermouth Ledge Trail – and suggested a trail day in October to finish up work – cut logs out of trail. Discussion of possible dates and set tentative date of October 12 from 9 am-2 pm. Suzanne will email members to finalize date and then others will be invited. Suggestion that we provide sandwiches and drinks to tempt potential volunteers. Suzanne shared map of Cockermouth Ledge Trail that John printed up. Chain saw operators need to be certified and Arthur stated that many of the fire department are certified. Bruce is also certified.

Possible zoning ordinances: Bruce suggested a Dark Skies ordinance. Members will read up on model ordinance that is in the book “Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques” which is in the office and also on-line. Suzanne will send link to members. Discussion of other possible ideas for the future including guidelines for ridgeline development.

Beavers: The Selectboard has met with Roger Burnham and Dennis Ford. Dennis recommended beaver pipes which have the ends closed which have been successful where he has used them. This will be discussed further at the Selectboard meeting tomorrow. Plan is to trap beavers in addition to installing tunnels. Three locations are Tannery Brook, Georges Brook, and where the large dam on the Town Forest empties into the Cockermouth. Mavis & David Brittelli have concerns about how much of this is on the town property and how much on their property. Boundary issue needs to be further discussed.

Other Business: Bruce shared copies of the Bean sanctuary deed. He explained that the town owns a 25-foot strip along the north end of the lake. It abuts the lake and the Audubon sanctuary. Property owners such as Audubon do not own to the lake b/c of this strip. Suzanne commented that she found beer cans on the beach/sandbar along with t-paper litter. Suzanne will continue to monitor the area when she is on the lake. Bruce reminded members that although the sandbar/beach is above water now, because it is below the high water mark, the state may be responsible for monitoring this area because they own the water. He suggested we make Marine Patrol aware of our concerns.

There being no further business to discuss, Suzanne made a motion to adjourn. Pat seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smith
Acting Secretary

Hebron Conservation Commission
September 25, 2013 Minutes
Approved 10-23-13

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Present were Martha Twombly, John Lloyd and Suzanne Smith. John was elevated to full member. There being 3 out of 5 full members present a quorum was declared.

Minutes of the August meeting were reviewed and amended. John made motion to accept the minutes as amended. Suzanne seconded motion and all concurred.

PERMITS:

AOT-0624 Double E. Land--Davis Farm -- Ridge Mauch signed the permit letter on behalf of DES. Revised plans were received by DES on August 30, 2013. Conservation Commission did not receive copy of revised plans.

BUDGET:

Review of 2013 budget vs. actual expenditures. 2013 budget was \$4,000. Thus far \$504 has been spent. We are awaiting invoice from Dr. Mike Jones for Cockermouth River wood turtle study estimated to be about \$2,000. John will research options of critter cams to monitor animal movement on town lands.

Discussion of 2014 budget proposal. Martha recommended that we meet with Nate Preisendorfer about completing the initial trail system in the town forest. The Commission worked with Nate in 2012 and he gave recommendations for trails already proposed. The goal is to make town forest trails more user friendly to the public. Forest Society has completed an initial trail map which can be amended as we improve the blue (from Spec Pond trail to ledges above the pond) and white trail (Spectacle Pond bypass). Martha will invite Nate to next meeting to review proposal so that a contract can be drawn up and the full Commission can vote on proposal. Martha has also spoken with Les Mills about building a kiosk at the town forest entrance similar to the one at the Grey Rocks Conservation Area.

TOWN FOREST – Trail day scheduled for October 12. Newfound Trackers, Newfound Audubon and others on town email list to be invited to participate. 9 am to 2 pm.

ZONING ORDINANCES: Discussion of Dark Skies ordinance postponed until next meeting. Suzanne will research what other towns have done and bring that back to the Commission. Members will review NH model language in the Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques book in the land use office or online.

CONFERENCES: Annual Conservation Commission conference is November 2. Members are invited to attend.

At 7:45 pm, Martha made a motion that we go into non-public session as allowed under exception to Right to Know Law RSA 91a:3-II (d). John seconded it and in a roll call vote, all concurred. Minutes of non-public session will remain sealed until required by law to be opened.

At 7:55 non-public session was adjourned.

Suzanne made a motion to adjourn from monthly meeting and John seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smith
Acting secretary

MINUTES OF 10/23/2013



Town of Hebron
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Hebron Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting 10/23/2013
Reviewed and approved 12/4/13

Hebron Conservation Commission Members Present: Martha Twombly (Chair), Bruce Barnard (Member), Suzanne Smith (Member), John Lloyd (Alternate), Mavis Brittelli (Alternate)

Hebron Conservation Commission Members Absent: Pat Moriarty, Art Cummings (Alternate)

Others Present: Barbara Spike (Secretary)

Time Convened: 7:05 p.m. **Time Adjourned:** 8:31 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 4, 2013

Agenda:

- 1) Review Minutes
- 2) Review Permits
- 3) Budget Review
- 4) Hebron Town Forest Update
- 5) Zoning for 2014 Town Meeting
- 6) Other business

Martha called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. With both Art Cummings and Pat Moriarty being absent, Martha elevated John Lloyd to full member for the meeting.

Review Minutes: Martha asked the members to read over the minutes from August and September for corrections and additions. Bruce said page 2 of the August minutes should clarify the property “strip” the Town owns. Also this property abuts the lake and Audubon Sanctuary.

John moved, Bruce seconded, the motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Vote was unanimous. Martha will correct them and send them to Elita for posting to the website.

On the September minutes, Nate's last name is Preisendorfer. A parenthesis needs to be added after "bypass" in the middle of the fifth paragraph. Mavis asked about building a kiosk that was listed under the Budget. Martha said this was included in the 2014 budget. Mavis moved and Bruce seconded this motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Vote was unanimous.

At 7:22 p.m a non-public session was held. At 7:35 p.m. a motion to leave the non-public session was made by Suzanne, seconded by Bruce. Motion carried.

Review Permits

1) A letter dated October 4, 2013 from the DES to Oak Corp. and Susan Jackson re: the storm drainage issue was read by Martha. The letter discussed the definitions involved in the disputes, namely intermittent or perennial drainage and water course. The DES felt it was non-jurisdictional drainage, and they closed their books on this case. After three years there's still no resolution to the drainage problem. Bruce said it was more about water quality.

Martha asked Bruce to express the Commission's gratitude to Susan for notifying the DES about the storm drainage to try to fix the problem. She feels the Con Coms should be concerned and keep monitoring the storm water drainage.

2) There was a Shoreland Impact Permit: 2013-02339 approved on Oct. 14, 2013 for Bean and Coughlin on 5 Point Drive. It stipulates "in accordance with revised plans designed by Barnard Survey Associates."

Bruce said the AOT on the Double E was approved.

Budget Review

Martha defended the proposed \$5,000 budget last week in front of the Select Board. She included on-the-ground activities with trails, kiosk, and public amenities for 2014, and that prior years had been focused on natural resource assessments.

Mavis noted it didn't appear that much of the budget was spent this past year. Martha brought up that Mike Jones hasn't been paid yet, for about \$2,000. Any other signed commitments will get paid.

Conferences: Annual Conservation Commission Conference is November 2. Members are invited to attend. At present, Martha and Suzanne are planning to attend.

Other Business

Mavis brought up the problem of Japanese Knotweed (JK) and wondered if anyone at the Conference might have some knowledge of how to destroy it. Martha said bittersweet, Japanese barberry and other invasive species abound throughout Hebron and need to be addressed as well. Mavis will contact DES about eradication for JK.

Bruce brought up the beaver dam in the Town Forest. He went and saw it last week. The

concern here is during heavy rain storms, the flow changes and Braley Rd. erosion near the corner of the Braley Road bridge abutment. He said Tannery Brook becomes a different river, and the water actually takes another path. Bruce said the volume of water is huge and the rate of flow is scary. He suggested the Select Board should plan a hydrological study of the area to look into impacts of big storms.

Hebron Town Forest: Martha said it was a very successful Trail Day on October 13 and thanked Suzanne for organizing it. The entire Cockermouth Ridge Trail was cleaned up with Nate's and 8 volunteer's help. Nate took out all down the blowdowns on the (yellow) Cockermouth Ridge Trail. Nate suggested doing recon on the Blue Trail (for 2014) before the snow hit and after the leaves fell. Martha said there were funds in 2013 to hire him for 2 days this fall.

Martha said that after the work date, noting how much work it took to make progress on trails, she put \$2,000 in the 2014 budget for Nate to finish the Blue and White trails - for ten days of his time plus volunteers. The budget also includes \$1,000 in funds to remove dead and falling trees or limbs anywhere near trails for public safety.

The Town Forest Bridge is on DOT's "to do" list. It's in need of painting and repair. Bruce suggested asking the Selectmen that any time the bridge is inspected, to give the Hebron Conservation Commission a copy of the report. He also suggested a CIP account because it's going to cost a lot and there's no sense in getting surprised all at once at the end. Bruce said Karen has all the reports on the bridge downstairs.

There were discussions to revisit the Forest Management Plan regarding timber harvesting. Agreement that the Management Plan should be discussed at a town meeting, not just left for the Select Board to decide.

Zoning: Bruce asked if the Planning Board was going to do anything about Zoning this year. Martha said she'd send the PB a quick note regarding Dark Skies. No one knew of any other zoning for this year.

LRPC Retirement Party notice: Kimon G. Koulet retirement party for 30 years of service is on November 25th in Meredith.

Notices Received: LRPC Annual Report is in the mail box. Newsletter from Grafton City Conservation District for Fall, 2013.

Bruce passed around photos he took of wildlife and scenery in and around Tenney Mountain.

Suzanne moved, Bruce seconded, a motion to adjourn. All concurred at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Barbara Spike

Next meeting: December 4 (due to Thanksgiving)

MINUTES OF 12/4/2013



Town of Hebron
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Hebron Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting 12/4/2013
Reviewed and approved 1/22/14

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Present were Martha Twombly, John Lloyd, Pat Moriarity, Suzanne Smith and Mavis Brittelli (alt). Minutes of October meeting were reviewed. Suzanne made a motion that the amended minutes of the October meeting be accepted. Pat seconded and all concurred.

Permits:

DES received Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification from Bob & Elaine Zagane for property on Hobart Hill and filed Complete Forestry Notification 11/27/2013.

DES received Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification from John Sheehan for property on Hobart Hill and filed Complete Forestry Notification dated 11/27/2013.

Grey Rocks Land Trust – Shoreland impact permit approved by DES October 30, 2013. Permit is to raze an existing nonconforming cabin and rebuild a new conforming cottage.

Budget review: Money remaining in 2013 budget will be used to for final payment to Dr. Mike Jones, trail work by Nate and possibly an animal cam.

Town Forest: Martha, Suzanne & John have roughed out a link trail between the rock at Spectacle Pond and the white trail. Martha is looking for signs to alert snowmobilers that specified trails are for hiking/snowshoeing and not motorized vehicles.

Other Business:

Beavers: Martha has talked with Beaver Deceivers about addressing the beaver issue. Beaver Deceivers have offered to come to Hebron and advise the town and landowners of options. Martha will contact them about coming to Hebron the weekend of December 21-22.

Office of Energy & Planning Workshops: Discussion of workshops being held this week and next in NH. Suzanne urged everyone to participate as these will inform the future of energy development in the state.

There being no further business to discuss, John made a motion to adjourn. Patrick seconded and all concurred and the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smith, Acting Secretary