

Hebron Conservation Commission
Minutes – July 23, 2014
Approved August 27, 2014

In attendance: Martha Twombly, Chair, Bruce Barnard, Pat Moriarty, Mavis Brittelli
Guests: Dr. Rick Van de Poll, Ecologist, Boyd Smith, Director NLRA, Ken Weidman, NLRA Board Treasurer.

Mavis was elevated to full board member.

Grey Rocks Conservation Area – Trails Plan.

Rick Van de Poll and Boyd presented their educational trails proposal for the Grey Rocks Conservation Area. The idea is to have a very low-impact trail with educational signage, built strongly enough for guided walks too. He explained that he, Boyd, Les Mills (Grey Rocks steward for LRCT, and NLRA member) and Martha walked the route shown on maps provided. He explained that the property was peppered with wetlands “like swiss cheese” with access to uplands and open water along the route. The plan includes all permitting locally and through DES, strategic planning for the trail building, and discussion of materials for construction in 2014-2015. A letter has been sent to the NH Heritage Bureau regarding rare species.

Boyd will be going to the Hebron ZBA for a special exception for trails within 50’ buffer to wetlands, and would like a letter of support from the Hebron Conservation Commission at that time.

Boyd described the type of conversations underway at this time, including recycled decking material for any boardwalks, possible viewing pavilions in two locations, closing the trails during flooding, possible removal of the wooden bulkheads remaining from the marina, and possible kayak racks for public use. There will also be a management plan required to address such issues as construction methods, erosion control, bank stabilization, landscaping, etc. for all phases of the project. He noted the “purple” area on the map set aside for future development, and said the C/E is very tightly written for how this can be used. Bruce Barnard offered to do any septic design/install gratis for NLRA, with NLRA providing labor.

The Conservation Commission members were very impressed with the work so far. Mavis made a motion to support the plan, Pat seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Martha will write a letter of support to the ZBA.

Ken Weidman announced a new conservation project was being completed on approximately 400 acres in Alexandria and Hebron stretching to the Sugarloafs, and said more details would be forthcoming in the future.

Minutes of June 25, 2014 and July 23, 2014 were reviewed and approved as corrected.

Discussions of Invasive species, and night sky lighting zoning were postponed until August meeting. Assignments were to read/research lighting by-laws and come prepared to draft something for the Planning Board.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Twombly, Chair

Hebron Conservation Commission 9/24/14

Minutes

Approved 12/17/14

Meeting was called to order at 7 pm. Present were Martha, Bruce, Suzanne and Mavis. Mavis was elevated to full member.

Acceptance of minutes from previous meetings were postponed.

Permits: NLRA permit for trail was presented. DES approved permit.

Bruce requested that we review a permit by notification for Spencer Joseph #7-HP-06 on 16 Loon Island Lane. His application is for a retaining wall replacement. Bruce shared his design which uses the latest technology to minimize stormwater runoff. He showed photos of the interlocking blocks used for construction, how the surface of the deck will be pervious and examples of a turbidity control barrier which he will use during construction.

Bruce requested that the Conservation Commission write a letter to DES pertaining to this project stating that the CC has no objection and that it is a valuable replacement to the structure which is now crumbling into the Lake. Suzanne made a motion and Mavis seconded. Martha, Mavis and Suzanne voted aye and Bruce abstained.

Beaver Presentation: Skip Lisle of Beaver Deceivers gave a presentation to Selectboard and Conservation Commission on Friday September 19. Present were Suzanne Smith and Bruce Barnard from the CC and Ellie Lonske from the Selectboard. Members of the public present: Doris Riddle and Dian West. Suzanne videotaped the presentation for the website.

After presentation the group proceeded to the Bog/George's Brook to inspect the beaver activity there. After lunch, Ellie, Suzanne and Skip were joined by David Brittelli. They hiked in to the beaver dam which borders Brittelli's property and the Town Forest. Prior visits indicated a large deep pond. Presently the pond is totally drained. No sign of current beaver activity and no sign of a breach although a lengthy inspection was not completed.

Skip suggested that we wait before installing a beaver device. The only active dam holding back water on George/Bog Brook is very recent. The major dam there has been breached and the beavers have not repaired it. The marsh/wetland/pond behind the large dam is 2 ½ feet lower than it was last year or early spring this year.

Lengthy discussion and workshop on proposed dark skies ordinance. Suzanne will mail completed drafts to Commission members and then the proposed ordinance will be presented to the planning board for review.

Martha reminded members of the NHACC Annual meeting on November 1 at Laconia Middle School and the presentation on Conservation Easements being held in Bridgewater on October 18.

Martha suggested that we further discuss Mike Jones' report on turtles at the next meeting. She proposed that we recommend to the Selectboard that we follow Dr. Jones' guidelines pertaining to mowing near the Cockermouth River.

There being nothing further to discuss, Suzanne made a motion to adjourn. Bruce seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smith

Hebron Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2014
Approved with corrections 11/19/14

In attendance: Bruce Barnard, John Lloyd, Mavis Brittelli, Pat Moriarty, Martha Twombly

Guest: Ellie Lonske

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm

1. Minutes from Sept. 24 were not available so will be reviewed at the next meeting.
2. Mavis was elevated to full member.
3. Permits:
 - a. NLRA – Trails notification for Grey Rock Conservation Area.
 - b. Paul Merrill – complete forestry notification w/conditions.
 - c. Brann, 17 Oak Land Beechwood, septic, shoreland permit granted with conditions.
 - d. Hendrickson, 27 Rogers Ledge –wetlands and non-site specific permit for seasonal boat lifts to existing dock structure – approved permit with conditions.
 - e. Santamaria, complete forestry notification with conditions.
4. Ellie opened a discussion about the Intent to Cut Timber process for the Selectboard. She would like the Conservation Commission to advise the SB when these applications are reviewed with the contractor. Martha said the SB just needs to contact the HCC and let us know when they're coming in so we can plan to attend the meeting. The SB is responsible for review and oversight of logging.

Ellie discussed the Merrill project on Route 3A (by Onaway), and is receiving concerns about noise and impacts. The HCC also had concerns about erosion controls not in place, as this is very near the lake. The HCC fully supported the idea of requiring a bond for these projects if they are on a town road.

There is also a workshop on timber rules coming up that the SB and any others may attend.

5. Beaver Issues – there was a long discussion about the status of beavers in Hebron particularly in Georges Brook above North Shore Road. The beavers have left that site since the large dam “blew out” and are not likely to return until next summer.

The nearer, smaller dam was washed out by a recent rain storm. The Hebron Cons Comm is monitoring beaver activity and will report in to the Selectboard. We had Skip Lisle come to do a workshop, and install a Beaver Deceiver. Since the beaver had left Skip felt it was not necessary to install a BD until they returned and rebuilt the dam. Summary from Skip's workshop was that beavers will return, and killing them will not solve the "problem. "

6. Dark Sky – correspondence from the Planning Board indicates they are not interested in introducing any new ordinances at the 2015 Annual Meeting, and that issues will have to be addressed on a case-by-case basis. The extreme lighting in winter at Berea was mentioned as a significant "annoyance" issue.
7. Hebron Town Forest
 - a. Nate Preisendorfer will be able to begin two tasks in 2014: cutting hazardous trees along the Spec Pond and Cockermouth Ridge trails, and reconning, marking and beginning to build the "blue" trail into the inner part of the forest.
8. Budget review – the 2015 budget items were discussed and Martha will be presenting the budget to the SB on Nov. 19. The budget is robust on trails, signage, kiosk, tree removal from the Cockermouth, and on workshops (the Saving Special Places (spring) and NH Assoc. of Cons Comms (Nov) are excellent and we want more participation). The NH Assoc. of Nat. Res. Scientists also offer excellent workshops and a conference.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was mention of the application of Owlshead property on West Shore Road for consideration for the National Register of Historic Properties, and there was support from HCC members.

The HCC unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Twombly

Hebron Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2014
Approved with corrections 12/17/14

Attendance: Bruce Barnard, Mavis Brittelli, Martha Twombly
Guest: George Andrews

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

Mavis was elevated to full member status.

Martha introduced George Andrews, from Butternut Ridge in Hebron, who would like to join the Hebron Conservation Commission. After introductions and discussion Bruce moved and Mavis seconded George's nomination to the Hebron Cons Comm. Vote was unanimous and Martha will write a letter to the Selectboard.

Minutes

The Oct. 24 minutes were approved with Martha to add the exact permits reviewed by name and location.

Sept. minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting in Dec.

Permits – there were no permits

Beaver management – Discussion about Skip Lisle's visit and ongoing controversy about what to do about the North Shore Road beaver dams in Georges Brook. The large dam is breached, and the smaller one closer to the road is showing recent repairs. The SB are concerned about flooding of N. Shore Road. Martha reported that she emailed the SB that the Cons Comm is monitoring the beaver activity too, and if we see a dam growing to a dangerous size, we have money in our budget to have Skip Lisle install a Beaver Deceiver.

Trees in the Cockermonth – there were discussions about river management along the Esty and Audubon properties where trees have fallen into the river. John proposed the HCC embark on a river management program, starting with an inventory of where trees are located and the severity of the problem to passage and to erosion of banks. Getting the right equipment to do the project without damaging the banks or getting into the water was discussed. Bruce will do some research and Martha will contact Nate about his new equipment. Bruce noted that the river had been cleaned up about 10 years ago.

Hebron Town Forest

Trails – Martha reported on assignments for Nate Preisendorfer, who is now available to do work in the HTF. Within the 2014 budget we have funds for the following three contracts with Nate:

- Removal of hazard trees along Cockermouth Ridge and Spec Pond Trails (\$480)
- Re-route steep trail beside Cockermouth (close to Esty bridge) (\$180)
- Re-con, mark and open up Blue Trail (up to \$2500)

Budget 2015

Martha reported that she submitted a 2015 HCC budget for \$5,000 which was approved by the Selectboard on Nov. 18. She noted that this budget is again focused on a lot of hands-on work such as river management, a kiosk for the HTF, trail work, two bridges on the Spec Pond Trail (hopefully with the help of the snowmobile club – Bruce will talk with them).

Emergency access – the Selectboard asked Martha to speak with the HCC members about the possibility of having access to the higher reaches of the Town Forest for emergency access authorized by the town only, in case of forest fires. Members saw the need for this and Martha will talk more with Nate, and discuss further with the all HCC. Members in attendance

Work plan – Martha introduced a matrix for members to study that outlines a workplan the HCC can outline each year.

Mavis asked about fitting an invasive species management plan into the work plan. and referenced the town of Sandwich.

Bruce recommended contacting the Newfound Regional HS outdoor club about helping with a kiosk.

Martha noted that the HCC needs to work with town historians about writing a history of the Esty's and the evolution of the TF for the kiosk, and asked members to think about what else they would like in the kiosk. Bruce to follow up with Allan Barnard and others.

Respectfully submitted

Martha Twombly

Hebron Conservation Commission
Minutes
December 17, 2014
Approved 1/28/15

John, Suzanne & Mavis. In Martha's absence, Suzanne called the meeting to order at 7:07. Present were John Lloyd, Suzanne Smith & Mavis Brittelli. Mavis was elevated to full member. A quorum was declared present.

MINUTES: November minutes were not approved, because the only member present at both meetings was Mavis.

PERMITS: There were no permits to review.

HEBRON TOWN FOREST: Suzanne and John spent 5 hours with Nate P. in the HTF on Sunday. They followed the original blue trail using GPS and Nate had suggestions about how to make the trail better.

Nate recommended that all groups and parties interested in trails, trail building, the town forest, get together and review maps and plans. Following this, a 5 or 10 year plan can be put together and plans for this year including volunteer training can move forward. Interested parties discussed were Newfound pathways, Brittelli's and other adjacent property owners. Suzanne mentioned that the new state rep from Plymouth, Travis Bennett, worked with AMC on the trail crew and he might also be interested. Nate has experience facilitating these sessions and is open to attending one of our Conservation Commission meetings to review with us.

Habitat management: Discussion of recommendations by Dr. Mike Jones was postponed until January.

Cockermouth River: Inventory of trees which are at risk of upending and falling into the River needs to be done. The easiest time to do this is when ground is frozen. GPS will be used to map locations on town properties. Property owners will need to be contacted for permission on private property. Nate Preisendorfer has a tool which may be able to assist with some trees. This would be less complicated than heavy equipment.

Need for fire access in remote areas: Discussion of Hazard Mitigation Committee's plan for access to Town Forest. Mavis is on the committee. John and Suzanne indicated on maps of Town Forest the number of streams, wetlands, boulder fields and very steep terrain which goes north from Spectacle Pond. This would be very difficult to access through the forest above Spectacle Pond trail and the lower section of the White Trail. Other options were discussed, such as Mavis explained that there are old skidder roads on their property adjacent to Town Forest. There could also be access through Groton – Rogers Road/Hardy Road, Tenney Lane up to old skidder run which goes up to very north end of Town Forest, Range Road, and the Braley Road extension – most of which properties are

owned by town also. are. Above Spectacle Pond the terrain becomes very rugged with a lot of stream crossings and boulders.

Mavis reported on Newfound Pathways and the work they've been doing along Route 3A along Camp Pasquaney property and towards North Shore Road.

John made motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Mavis seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Smith