

Hebron Conservation Commission Minutes  
May 15, 2019

Present Martha Twombly, Suzanne Smith, Bruce Barnard, Bill Luti  
Guests: Bob Wisnewski, Bill Roberti  
Excused: Ed Van Dorn, Pat Moriarity

Martha Twombly, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**HEBRON FIRE WARDEN/BILL ROBERTI**

Bill reported that he wants to apply for a DNCR/Department of Forest and Lands grant to build fire breaks in the town forest. These trails/fire breaks could also be used as multi use trails. Bill shared letter from Brad Simpkins, Director of State Forests and Lands. The matching grants require the municipality to pay 50 percent/the state 50 percent. The total is \$5,000 and the town would pay half/\$2,500.

HE explained that the fire breaks, formerly called "fire trails," would be 4-5 feet wide. Bill is Hebron's fire warden and access is critical to prevent fires in our woods. He stated that if there was a fire he would have no access to top of town forest.

He stated that he has been working on forest fire prevention plans throughout the town. Many snowmobile trails were initially done as part of building fire breaks. He suggested possible building a trail which would reach to Range Road.

It is not our decision as Selectboard already has agreed.

There would be staging areas.

The fire break would only be large enough for UTVs (48"-60" wide)  
Bill suggested we take a look at "Fire Watch USA."

Martha will assist Bill with the grant application by providing the acreage of town owned conservation lands and total conservation lands in Hebron. Suzanne will provide acreage of Bean Sanctuary.

**HARDY SNOWMOBILE CLUB/ACCESS GEMMILL PROPERTY**

We have not heard back from David Lloyd /Hardy Snowmobile Club about proposed access since sending our letter to Selectboard. Bob Wisnewski shared a letter he wrote to the snowmobile club. (copy attached). He is concerned about abutters (Esty, Truessel, Brooks), wetlands directly across from the Town Forest parking lot etc.

In our letter to Selectboard/Hardy, the Conservation Commission stipulated no parking in forest parking lot. There was discussion about clarifying that snowmobiles cannot idle, block, or load and unload in the parking lot.

**NH Audubon Red Barn Series**

Martha made motion to donate \$250 for this year's programs. Bruce seconded the motion and all concurred.

**MINUTES**

Martha made suggestions for changes to April minutes which were reviewed. Bruce made motion to accept minutes as amended. Suzanne seconded and all concurred.

**PERMITS** No Permits to review

### **HEBRON TOWN FOREST**

Bob Wisnewski stated that because the access gate is broken, someone blocked the walkway so it is impossible to hike into forest unless one climbs over the bridge.

Martha shared Lew Shelley's estimate for building bridges in the town forest. The HCC held over money from 2018 budget to hire Lew. Martha will speak to Lew about scheduling in July.

Berea will be sending 6 volunteers and one adult to do service work in the Town Forest on May 25 in the morning. Martha and Suzanne will plan which area of the Cockermouth Ledge Trail will be cleared/raked.

FRIENDS OF TOWN FOREST— Martha will put an article in the newsletter addressing the formation of a Friends type group who can assist with trail work and other Town Forest projects.

VERNAL POOLS: Martha received an email from Doug McLane who is concerned about setbacks for vernal pools. HCC will be reviewing other municipalities' ordinances and state law. Delineation will need to be done when land is surveyed before building projects commence.

THERE BEING no further business to discuss, Suzanne made motion to adjourn. Bruce seconded and all concurred. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne