

Hebron Conservation Minutes

April 29, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Martha Twombly, co-chair, Suzanne Smith, co-chair, Bruce Barnard, Patrick Moriarity.

Excused: Bill Luti, Don Musial

Guest: Rich James

Martha called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Suzanne read statement pertaining to conducting meetings remotely pursuant to the governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 authorizing meetings to be held electronically.

Martha introduced Rich James to commission members. Rich and his wife live at Hillside on Mayhew Turnpike.

MINUTES: Minutes of February meeting were reviewed. Bruce made a motion to accept minutes as written. Suzanne seconded and all concurred.

PERMITS: DES wrote that they have received Camp Onaway's Shoreland Water Quality Protection permit application. No action required on our part.

CHARLES BEAN SANCTUARY: At the February meeting members voted on signage to be placed on the waterfront of the Bean Sanctuary. The Selectboard voted to approve the sign at a recent meeting. Martha will have waterproof signs printed (18"x24" probably) and the signs will go up before summer season begins.

HEBRON TOWN FOREST: Foreco put together a proposal and estimate for updating the Town Forest Management Plan. Members have reviewed this and Martha wrote a letter outlining our support and with further suggestions. Bruce made motion to send the letter to Selectboard. Suzanne seconded adding "as amended." Patrick noted that he is no longer chair of Selectboard and there were also a couple minor corrections. All concurred. Martha will make corrections. Suzanne and Martha will sign and send to Selectboard.

Patrick noted that the Foreco Proposal will be discussed at town meeting. He also explained that town elections and town meeting have been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Town Elections will be held on June 23 and Town Meeting on Thursday June 25. The new dates have been approved by the state.

Martha suggested a volunteer day in the Town Forest. Trails need some annual maintenance and our team of volunteers from Camp Berea will not be joining us this year. Suzanne showed a poster which will be hung at kiosk at Town Forest advertising "Friends of Hebron Town Forest." The forest is being used daily by hikers and picnickers during the pandemic when folks are hiking local. People have extra

time on their hands and maybe some will decide to join us in maintaining the forest trails which they are using. There will be an article in the May Hebron Newsletter also advertising the Friends concept. Volunteer Day was scheduled for the weekend of June 6-7.

Martha has the chain saw which was purchased by the Conservation Commission. It is electric and lightweight, perfect for saplings and small trees (1-2 inch). She also brought up that the water bars which cross the Spectacle Pond trail need work and thinks Don Musial may have a small piece of equipment which may be perfect for that job.

BEAVER ACTIVITY: Little Bog Farm (the former Davis Farm) at the end of Cooper Rd is conservation land and beavers are very active building up a wetland there. The challenge is that the culvert which crosses Cooper Road on the property is too small for the water upstream and this is exacerbated by the fact that the road just beyond the culvert is lower than the culvert so water naturally covers the road after heavy rain. This also makes it very tempting for beavers who have build a dam on the downstream side of the wetland. The owner of the property (Cate Barrett and now her daughter Elizabeth Rolffs) have hired Skip Lisle aka Beaver Deceivers International to lessen and eliminate negative impact of beavers. Two years ago, beavers were trapped and killed--against the owner's wishes. Since then the beavers have returned and until recently, the beaver deceivers (a series of cages and culverts) have prevented the road from being flooded. Because of several heavy storms, the road again flooded but with volunteers, clearing dams, and additional work done by Skip, Suzanne believes the issue of beavers blocking the road is being remedied. Martha explained the value of wetlands for wildlife habitat in addition to filtering out impurities in water. She stated that the land is being restored by NRCS (Natural Resource conservation Service) who have spent 200,000 or more to restore the property in the 8-10 years since Ms. Barrett bought the property and put it into conservation.

This was our first remote Zoom meeting, and Martha thanked all for participating. Suzanne made a motion to adjourn and Bruce seconded. All concurred and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Smith, Acting Secretary/co-chair