

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
November 13, 2013**

The November meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:30 p.m. at the Whitaker Homesite in North Conway, NH. Members present were: Rob Adair, Carol Lyman, David Weathers, Linda Kearney and Karla Allen.

1. Approval of Minutes 10/9/13: Ms. Kearney made note that Karla Allen had been present and had been left off the list of those present; also at the bottom of Pg. 1, last para., the 1st sentence should have read “.....improvements in Whitaker Woods, so we might be able to....” **Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Ms. Lyman, that the Minutes of the Oct. 9th meeting be accepted as corrected. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports: Neither Mr. Johnson or Mr. Lees was present; however, Mr. Adair had received a message from Mr. Johnson that he plans to go into Whitaker Woods, that he had had a discussion with Cort Hansen regarding work to be accomplished along the power lines that has been on a high priority list, and he will take care of that.

Mr. Adair reported he had contacted Laurie Roode at the Town Hall with regard to the budget and found that we have about \$3,000 left in the budget, which includes funds budgeted for the Whitaker Woods work.

4. Other Business:

a. NHDOT Mitigation Lands – It was noted that Messrs. Sires, Adair and DegliAngeli have been discussing establishing a trail head at the top of Hemlock Lane in the proximity of the Bike Shop and Chick Home Center. Mr. Adair noted that there is a ¼ acre lot (#59) and about a 10 acre lot (#56) owned by Mullens at the end of which is all State of NH land. It is adjacent to the chain link fence near the stock pile area. Mr. DegliAngeli had suggested CCC members do a site walk either as a group or individually when time permits. Mr. Adair said he did not believe it would require any improvements; it would require crossing the tracks and there would be a fee for the initial railroad crossing of \$400 plus \$50 per year. He noted the Conway Scenic Railroad has a lease on that section and has been running a train a few times a year to keep the lease active.

Mr. Adair said part of the thought for establishing the trail head was that it would take some of the pressure off the Pudding Pond trail head. [He noted the sign which was on the gate cautioning people not to block the access is missing at Pudding Pond trail head and he will see what he can do about getting that replaced.] Mr. Weathers inquired as to whether anything would have to be done to the railroad crossing. Mr. Adair said he does not think so, but would need permission to be there. Mr. Weathers said if we are not doing anything to the tracks or the bed, he does not see a problem. Mr. Adair stated they could put in planking, but

do not really need to. He explained they would be avoiding Lots 56 & 59; parking would be in the State right-of-way. He questioned whether members wish to go as a group to view the site. The consensus was they would go on their own.

b. Selectmen's Report – Mr. Weathers reported the budget presentation went very smoothly with no questions asked.

Mr. Adair said he had received a call from Dennis Hill, a local trapper interested in setting his traps in Pudding Pond, who expressed concern with regard to the flooding of the railroad tracks. Mr. Hill is seeking permission to go in there to trap and it was felt there are no regulations as regards trapping. Mr. Weathers said Mr. Hill has trapped for the town previously and works very closely with NH Fish & Game. He said if Mr. Hill thinks there is a problem he is quite sure he will not do it, noting that usually the town likes to see nuisance beavers trapped. There was concern expressed as to dogs getting into the traps; however, Mr. Weathers stated if the sets are low enough in the water, he does not see how that could occur.

Mr. Adair noted UNH Cooperative Extension is offering seminars dealing with Forest Laws for Municipal Officials on Wed. in Campton and Tues. in Peterboro, and inquired as to whether any members were interested in attending. Ms. Allen said she may decide to go.

c. Wetlands Applications: Mr. Weathers said there are no applications. The town is looking at replenishing the beach at Conway Lake.

Mr. Weathers reported it has been brought to his attention that a clear cut has occurred on the back side of Birch Hill adjacent to a wetlands area and he will check with the Town Manager to see whether enforcement is possible.

d. Member Roundtable – Ms. Allen asked for update on the grout pile trail approved at the October meeting. Mr. Adair reported the trail has been built, it was easy building and came out good. They found some really nice stone buried in the leaves. The trail was routed around the back of the latrine building as some people were initially going through the building, then runs past the boilers and winds around by the stone shed chip pile. He stated it is not planned to do anything further and this provides a nice little tour through the quarry. He noted that the stone shed building (which was 200' long by 40' wide) was moved to Quincy, MA in the 1940s during the war effort.

Mr. Weathers questioned Ms. Allen as to the progress of the snowmobile trail proposed by the Mountain Meadow Snowmobile Club which is in the bypass corridor from Rt. 302 in Center Conway, crossing Stark Road, and coming out in Madison near Coleman's. Ms. Allen had nothing to report.

Ms. Lyman questioned whether there had been new work done at the Abenaki site and Mr. Adair reported Forest Land Improvement did do some brush cutting there.

Ms. Lyman questioned the progress on the conservation easement on the Marshall property and Mr. Weathers stated they are still working on the timber appraisal.

5. Next Meeting – It was decided, as has been the practice in the past, that there would be no December meeting unless something should arise necessitating a meeting.

Adjourn: There being no further business, **Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Ms. Kearney and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary