

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2015**

The July meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:30 P.M. at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway.

Present: Chairman Rob Adair, Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler, Dan Lucy, Karla Allen, Linda Kearney, Selectmen Representative, Dave Weathers

Absent: Carol Lyman, Treasurer; Matt Coughlin, Alternate; Pat Ferland, Alternate;

Also Present: Forester Don Johnson, Paula Churchill of WM NEMBA, Rob Zimmerman

1. **Approval of the Minutes 5/13/2015** Linda Kearney made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2015 CCC meeting; seconded by Larry Huemmler. Motion carried with 5 votes in the affirmative and one abstention (David Weathers).

Notes taken at the June 10th meeting are informational only, since there was no quorum.

2. Reports:

- a. **USVLT – Lucy Easement:** Rob Adair reported that the Land Trust is purchasing an easement of 44 acres on the Chet and Lydia Lucy’s property; the total estimated project cost is \$300,00; the estimated value of the easement is \$260,000. They raised \$280,000 and they are \$20,000 short, hoping to get \$10,000 from CCC Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) match fund. There is a total of \$15,000 in the funds now. They are also hoping to get \$5,000 from the Ham Foundation, and the other \$5,000 from other foundations. There are 2,600 feet of frontage on West Side Road. Significant natural resources include almost 33 acres of prime soil, 10 acres of the highest ranked habitat in NH, 11 acres of the highest ranked habitat in the White Mountains biological region. It has connectivity with Echo Lake State Park, an adjacent 137 acre easement held by SPNHF and White Mountain National Forest. The LCHIP fund was created in 1988, a warrant article, and has not been used. CCC has two Land Acquisition accounts and the Hubbard-Davis Account. LCHIP grant gave \$75,000 to the Land Trust. **Rob Adair asked for a motion from the floor. Karla Allen made a motion to give \$10,000 out of the LCHIP funds to the Land Trust for the purchase of the easement; seconded by Linda Kearney. Discussion continued on where the money came from. Motion carried with 5 votes and one abstention (Lucy).**
- b. **Marshall – West Side Road Plans:** Rob Adair announced that the Commission needs to agree on a name for the property. He described all the contributions the Marshalls made to the community. Suggested names were “Marshall Town Forest”, “Marshall Woods”. Rob Adair asked for a motion. Larry Huemmler made a motion to name the property

“Marshall Woods”; Dave Weathers seconded for discussion. He asked if “Marshall Woodland” sounds better, or “Marshall Conservation”, which would include all the activities the property would be used for and not just woods. Another suggestion of “Town Forest” describes it as a town property. Larry Huemmler made a motion to amend his motion, and name the property “Marshall Conservation Area”; Dave Weathers seconded. No further discussion. **Rob Adair asked for a vote. Motion passed with 4 in favor, and two opposed. (Adair and Allen)**

Rob Adair passed out plans for the trail designs, stating they should be contour trails to shed water which cause erosion. There is a narrow access point at West Side Road, and he suggested eventually having three or four trails fanning out from that point to disperse the users. He flagged a couple of trails off the Ingalls Hill Road. Discussion continued as he pointed out the trails on the map. An easy access trail will be needed, single track trails and a recreation trail. The trail should make a few loops and connect with the big loop. Money will be needed to put in all the trails. A suggestion was made to have some of the trails wider for a fire safety access (four wheel drive with small tank), and disabled people. The recreation trail should be wide and low grade for everyone to use it, and it should be groomed with a snow machine. There are some beautiful old oak trees on the ridge where one trail is proposed. Rob Adair suggested that, with all the proposed ideas, including a big long term plan for the future, the Commission start with a single track; Paula Churchill suggested making it for mountain bike or a foot path, about 18 inches wide. The land has been owned for 4 months. Rob Adair suggested taking a pro-active approach to develop a recreational trail, and start by making an alternate route to get up the first hill. Discussion continued on how the trail would be worked, including switchbacks. The long term plan will take about six months to lay out. The benefit of starting on the project now is that the Commission will report to the Town of Conway that they are actively progressing with the trails. **Larry Huemmler made a motion to accept the WM NEMBA’s offer to work on the initial trail up the first hill on the weekend of July 25th and 26th; seconded by Karla Allen. Motion passed by a vote of all in favor and none opposed. 6-0**

Rob Adair discussed the idea of forming a committee to include other organizations to work on a more formal plan. Rob Adair, Karla Allen, Dan Lucy and Larry Huemmler offered to be on the Committee. A recommendation was made to have a Forest Management Plan included in the long range plan. Another suggestion was made to have each Commission members complete a land owner assessment form and state their goals to serve as a guide for future discussions on the plan.

Rob Adair asked the Commission if they have any objections to Rob Zimmerman’s offer to continue to maintain the Old Location Road trail, which can be used for a recreation

path in the future. He will get permission from the Allards and the Hussy's to access their property. There were no objections.

The Commission received a nice thank you card from Stephanie Marshall for making the acquisition happen; William Abbott also sent a similar thank you card.

- c. **NEMBA Trails Discussion:** Rob Adair proposed that the newer trail south of the Cardiac Hill Road be closed off, due to it being wet; they will brush it in, and make it go away, and improve the Cardiac Hill trail and the other loop that connects into it. Paula Churchill said it would be fine. Rob Adair said some people get together on Tuesday to do some work on the trails. **Rob Adair asked for a motion to close off the connector trail south of Cardiac Hill Road. Linda Kearny made the motion; seconded by Larry Huemmler. No discussion. Motion passed by 6 votes; all in favor, none opposed.**
 - d. **Muffler Trail -** Rob Adair discussed the trail that parallels the power lines that were chipped and are a mess. He proposed extending the trail to keep it in the woods. It is on the DOT mitigation lands. **Rob asked for a motion to extend the trail to keep it in the woods. Larry Huemmler made the motion; seconded by Linda Kearny. No discussion. Motion passed by 6 votes; all in favor, none opposed.**
3. Don Johnson gave some brief updates on the Forestry: The landings have been seeded; seed and hay have been put down to make the grass grow on the Marshall property. On Hurricane Mountain Road Don proposes reopening viewpoint. Don got in touch with DRED and filled out the Basil Areas Form. Mag Machinist, a Forester from the State of NH, is going up to look at it. Since this is a site where there is a view and the public will be served, she said it most likely will be approved. The permit will be easy to do; he reflagged it with blue flags. At the Shedd Woods they did brush saw work and pruning; they tried to make it much more open approaching from the north. They also blew off the little trails and planted some trees which are doing well. At the Abenaki site (Hubbard-Davis) they did some weeding and brush whacking. There's a lot of poison ivy and they did some clearing.

Rob Adair met with Leah Hart from the Forest Society (SPNHF) and they did a walk on the Hubbard-Davis property, which they call the Pequawket Woods and Abenaki property. Everything looked fine in there.

4. **Selectmen's Report:** Dave Weathers missed some meetings, no report, nothing new. Joseph and Jane Powers on Brownfield Road in Center Conway want to put in a culvert, and filled in a wetland for a new house site; that's in the hands of the DES.

Rob Adair passed around a book that he acquired, "Short Hikes to the Big Trees of NH". He said there are some big trees on the Marshall property. A suggestion was made to have a

plan for what is being done with the quarries; Rob Adair said the committee will include that in the plan they will develop. It was suggested they should be preserved areas.

Rob Adair reported that the Nature Conservancy sent their annual Memorandum of Understanding. They need \$2,000, which is in the budget, to maintain the trails on the Green Hills Preserve, Pudding Pond, and Hurricane Mountain conservation areas, distributing and stocking maps at the kiosks. It's identical to what they did in the years past. **Rob Adair asked for a motion to sign the MOU for \$2,000 for 2015 services. Linda Kearny made the motion; Larry Huemmler seconded. No discussion. Motion passed by 6 votes; all in favor, none opposed.**

A suggestion was to have updated trails included on the map.

5. Member Roundtable:

Larry suggested getting the sign on this property replaced because it's faded. Rob Adair said they will look at it, and have a new one made when the other signs are made.

For August, Rob Adair suggested the Commission walk some areas they have not been to in a while. Linda Kearny will walk the Walkers Pond area near Pine Tree School. Rob Adair will walk Shedd Woods and Karla Allen will walk the Pudding Pond. Larry Huemmier will walk East Conway Common Lands.

6. Next Meeting – August 12, 2015 @ 6:30 PM at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway

Adjourn: David made a motion to adjourn at 7:43 P.M. seconded by Linda Kearny. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Ann Gallagher

Recording Secretary