

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 9, 2018**

The May monthly meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission took place at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway.

Present: Chairman Rob Adair, Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler, Linda Kearney, Treasurer; Dan Lucy, Pat Ferland, Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers, Theresa Gallagher, Recording Secretary

Absent: Peter Minnich, Alternate

Also Attending: Forester Don Johnson

1. **Approval of the Minutes for April 11, 2018:** Chairman Rob Adair asked for a motion to accept the April 11, 2018 meeting minutes; Linda Kearney made a motion to accept the April 11, 2018 meeting minutes; seconded by Dave Weathers. There were no corrections. Rob Adair called for a vote to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).
2. Forester Don Johnson passed out copies of the approved budget for 2018, and reviewed the projects: Abenaki Site – Brush saw to control shoot growth and trim dead branches and dying trees (stay away from the poison ivy there); Hurricane Mountain – Brush saw the landing; Marshall Conservation Area – Trail building; Pine Hill Scenic Vista – clear the trees; Pudding Pond – Surveyors redefine the property line, reflag the bypass (State land), brush saw landing, and timber stand improvement (7 acres). Rob Adair suggested moving the \$150, budgeted to flag the bypass, to the Scenic Vista. He told Don Johnson to work Pine Hill first, and if more money is needed, it can be moved from the reflagging of the bypass. Shedd Woods – Maintain the vista, brush saw, prune, and repair the fence; Whitaker Woods – timber sales. Don Johnson noted that the budget includes consulting and attend meetings.

Don Johnson reported that the timber sale last year went very well; the work was high quality. He said he is reserved about recommending a sale of timber this year because most of the woods are pine grounds, and the seed has run its course. It will be germinating in about two weeks.

Rob Adair suggested that after the Rec Path in the Pudding Pond Conservation Area is marked and approved, Don Johnson could clear the corridor. Don Johnson noted that it depends on the alignment of the path and how wide it is. Rob said it's about 20 feet wide. Don Johnson agreed to take a look at the corridor. Dan Lucy agreed that, once the corridor is established, the clearing should be done. Rob Adair said the plan is to advertise for bids at Thanksgiving, and the work will begin in the first part of 2019. The clearing should be done this Fall. The purpose of clearing the path is to reduce the price of construction, and to get some revenue out of it. However, if there is no potential for revenue, then it might not be worth clearing the corridor.

3. Reports and Other Business:

- a. Trail Planning / Stewards: Rob Adair asked Dan Lucy, Larry Huemmler, and anyone else interested, to go with him to Lucille's path in the Marshall Conservation Area to decide which area Don Johnson should work on this year. He believes most of the flagging done by Josh Ryan three years ago is still in place.

Whitaker Woods Committee – table discussion for the next meeting.

Hurricane Mountain - Rob Adair reported that NEMBA did not receive the \$10,000 grant to build the mountain bike trail; NEMBA is planning to raise the money for the work.

Walker Pond – Linda Kearney reported that she walked the trail and it's not attractive. The signs are intact, but they are stained and moldy and need some work. One of them has the plexi glass missing. The abutting property is chained off so the trail does not go that far. Linda said she believes more people would walk the trail if there was something there to attract them. She suggested putting a sign near the road to indicate the trail is there. Rob Adair asked if it would be worth working on the trail. Dave Weathers commented that it is a small parcel of land. Rob thanked Linda for walking the trail.

Rob Adair said he was away for a three week road trip, and he noticed that a lot of trails have some sort of facility at the trail head. None of the trails managed by the CCC have any. He suggested the Committee include it in the budget in the future. Conway has a lot of popular trails. He just wanted to put it on the table for discussion. It needs to be researched for pricing. Dave Weathers commented that Rob Garland does that for a business.

- b. Selectmen's Report: Dave Weathers reported that the Public Works Department did some dress up and repair work at First Bridge where the bench is; there was some damage done from the winter. They refortified the granite slabs.

The Board of Selectmen approved Mr. Minnich as an Alternate for the CCC at Tuesday night's meeting. Rob Adair confirmed that he received the notice. Peter couldn't make the meeting tonight because he has guests at his home. The Board of Selectmen have not heard from Karla Allan; Rob said he texted her if she was still interesting in being an alternate she should send him or Tom Holmes an e-mail to confirm, but Rob has not heard back from her. Dave Weathers reported that no applications have been submitted to the Town.

4. Round Table: Larry Huemmler reported that he and the Rec Path Design Committee walked the length of the Rec Path and they found it very interesting. Dave Weathers remarked that there are a multitude of entities that it crosses. Burr Philips is creating the plans, which has to be submitted to the State. Rob commented that there's a railroad crossing, and three access easements that have to be reviewed for the legalities of crossing the path. The northern section still has to be walked; it has the most wetlands. Rob mention there are pros and cons; if the path is adjacent to the Pudding Pond access road, then another corridor has to be cleared.

Rob Adair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 P.M. Linda Kearney made the motion; seconded by Dave Weathers. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Ann Gallagher Recording Secretary