

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 8, 2018**

Note: The July 2018 monthly CCC meeting was cancelled.

The August 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; Nat Lucy, Peter Minnich, Alternate; Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers, Theresa Gallagher, Recording Secretary

Absent: Pat Ferland, Dan Lucy

Also attending: Burr Philips, Civil Solutions; Conway Public Works Director Paul Degliangeli

1. **Approval of the Minutes for June 13, 2018: Chairman Rob Adair asked for a motion to accept the June 13, 2018 meeting minutes; Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler made the motion; seconded by Linda Kearney. No comments. Chairman Rob Adair asked for a vote to approve the June 13, 2018 meeting minutes as written. Motion passed (5-0-1). Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers abstained since he was not present.**
2. Reports and Other Business:
 - a. Forest Land Improvement: No report. Rob Adair said he did not see Forester Don Johnson.
 - b. Mount Washington Valley Rec Path: Chairman Rob Adair reviewed the status of the Rec Path – the CCC previously approved the alignment of the path through Pudding Pond Conservation Area, with the condition that a parallel boardwalk lies adjacent to the existing access from Thompson Road. Burr Philips from Civil Solutions presented maps of the preliminary layout and discussed the comparison of the boardwalk with the existing access road. He pointed out the location of Thompson Road and explained the basic design of the Rec Path. Burr explained the alignment of the path and pointed out where the wetlands are, which would need boardwalks, making this project more expensive. Burr showed the alternative path, which stays on the road where logging trucks pass through. The road would have to be upgraded to handle the trucks. Burr compared the cost for the boardwalk option, which was approximately \$50,000 greater than the cost of upgrading the road. Nat Lucy asked why there is the second option. Burr explained it has to do with getting permission to come across the land, assuming the path would be parallel to it. Larry Huemmler explained that the concern was accessing the road with a lot of people walking on it. Paul Degliangeli commented that the logging trucks would have to access Thompson Road and Artist Falls Road; if the path goes through the section pointed out, then additional trees will not have to be cut, saving work and reducing wetland impact. Dave Weathers asked if the road is going to be put in where the existing road is, would the base of the road be stripped and upgraded. Paul Degliangeli discussed roads built in the past compared with roads being built today, which are much better. Burr explained that the path is outside of the wetland limits. The discussion continued with details on sections of the rec path, alignment and grading.

Nat Lucy asked to make a motion to reconsider the previous vote on the Rec Path. Chairman Rob Adair stated that the Conway Conservation Commission already made a motion to approve the Rec Path and it is recorded in the books. At this time a motion can be made to change that decision. (Motion was made in January) **Nat Lucy made a motion to amend the previous motion made in January for the Rec Path, and approve the proposed alignment, using the existing access road, with the road upgraded to accommodate traffic.** Discussion: Dave Weathers stated that he has concerns about the safety factor. The same road having pedestrians, cyclists, and heavy loaded trucks is not safe. His other concern is the damage that can be done to the road by the weight of the logging trucks. Will the logger be responsible for the damage? Will the Rec Path Committee address the logger? Larry Huemmler asked how often the loggers work in that area. Dave responded every 10 or 15 years, unless they are doing TSI work. Linda Kearney suggested posting signs to notify users of the Rec Path that the logging trucks will be passing through. Another possibility is to close the road during that time. Peter Minnich commented that currently the road is used for walkers and bicyclists, and the logging trucks have been going through there with no impact on the bikers and walkers. Nat Lucy asked if the road would be wider in that section; Burr Philips said he put in extra gravel to widen the road by about 3 feet. Larry Huemmler asked if the Rec Path Committee has a preference for one alignment over the other? Paul Degliangeli explained that using the existing road is preferred for three reasons: trees will not have to be cut, more land will not have to be graded, which impacts the wetlands, and it is less expensive. In January the cost figures were not known when the vote was made. **Chairman Rob Adair asked for a vote to approve the motion on the floor with a show of hands. Motion passed 5-1. Dave Weathers opposed.**

Chairman Rob Adair asked Burr Philips to come back on September 12th for further discussion.

- c. Trail Updates: Rob Adair reported that Don Johnson's crew got some work done on the next segment of Lucille's Loop in the Marshall Conservation Area. It came out very well and ties into Red's Trail in a fairly flat section. The layout is designed to use part of the existing Ingall's Hill Loop. Rob Adair commented that the trail looks good, and they did a great job. The cost was \$690 over the \$6,000 budgeted amount. The budget will have to be reviewed and adjusted for that.

Rob Adair commented that NEMBA's trail work is underway on the Hurricane trail in the Hurricane Mountain Road Common Lands. He walked the trail yesterday with the crew working on it. They used an excavator that was donated by Coleman's Rentals. With that wide machine they worked through the brontosaurus cut. Then they will finish up with a smaller machine. Rob stated that the grade and drainage are good, and it's not a steep, erosion-prone piece of work.

Rob Adair reported that a small crew has been working on the Quarry Trail in the Marshall Conservation Area. NEMBA has a trail work day set for Sunday, August 26th.

Nothing is happening at the Whitaker Woods. Nat Lucy commented that the only thing he noticed is that the gate on the far side by Kearsarge Road is broken. He notified Paul Degliangeli and Paul said he would take care of it. Rob Adair said it should be locked. He put a combination lock on the Marshall Conservation Area gate. Dave Weathers asked for the combination so he could give it to the Fire Chief.

- d. Selectmen's Report: Dave Weathers reported that no new dredge and fill permits have been submitted. He announced that Pine Hill Community Forest is having a celebration and guided tour on Saturday at 9 AM to 11 AM; they are meeting at Kennett High School. Dave Weathers also reported that the progress on Seavey Street is slow; they are waiting for the Water Precinct to do their work.

Rob Adair told the Committee that they received an invitation from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions Outstanding Achievement Awards. He reviewed the list of criteria for the award and it doesn't look like they would qualify, although the CCC does support other organizations and schools. Dave Weathers commented that the committee did vote to put the Lucy Farm in Conservation Property, which also encompasses the Lucy Brook. Nat Lucy said it is called Lucy Farm Land and is on about 3 acres.

3. Round Table: Rob Adair announced that the NHACC's annual meeting and achievement awards will be on a Saturday in November. Vice Chairperson Larry Huemmler will be attending. Rob Adair said he will review the budget and decide in September if they can pay for his ticket.

Nat Lucy brought up for discussion the resources in the Conway area, such as Echo Lake, Cathedral Ledge, and many of the river accesses, which are being trampled. Both public land and private lands are being affected. He suggested that the CCC think of ways to preserve some of the areas that get hammered. He noted that the Community takes very good care of the visitors, and suggested working with the Parks Service that manage those areas. Nat suggested working in collaboration with Federal, State, Local and Non-Profit organizations to manage these areas. The goal would be to preserve some of these areas before they are destroyed. He believes the CCC would be a good catalyst for taking action. Dave Weathers commented that he agrees with long range planning. Nat said he believes that people from different entities can come to the table with the common goal of improvement, conservation and preservation. Rob Adair agreed that some of these areas are trampled. Discussion continued on actions and funding needed for the work to be done. Rob Adair suggested the first step to take would be to identify the locations that need attention, and then the second step would be to contact the parties involved with the locations, to discuss what can be done. Nat said it will be a very long term project. Rob Adair suggested having Nat spearhead this project. Nat agreed to take that position. Dave Weathers reminded everyone that the Board of Selectmen met with the Forest Service when they were working on the problem at Diana's Bath, and it worked out well. He noted that there are no plans in the Federal Government to address overuse of the recreation sites. Nat Lucy said he believes it can be addressed by the local people. He suggested approaching representatives from the Forest Service, empathetic politicians, and local officials. He said it's the duty of the CCC to be proactive, and he knows that if a meeting is scheduled, people will attend. Discussion will continue at future meetings.

Larry Huemmler presented the brochure for the Atticus Finch Memorial Walk for the Animals (formerly Bark in the Park) event to be held at Whitaker Woods on September 22, 2018. .

Rob Adair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Linda Kearney made the motion; seconded by Dave Weathers. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, *Theresa Ann Gallagher*, Recording Secretary