

CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, March 13, 2019
6:30 P.M. WHITAKER HOME SITE MEETING HOUSE

Meeting Minutes

Prior to meeting Linda Kearney was sworn into the Conway Conservation Committee by Selectman Dave Weathers

Present: Chair Rob Adair, Linda Kearney, Pat Ferland, Dan Lucy, Peter Minnich, Nat Lucy, Selectman Representative David Weathers, Recording Secretary Michelle Cruz

Absent: Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler

Also Attending: Scott Knapp from NH Electric Co-op

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rob Adair

1. Approval of Minutes for February 13, 2019

Chairman Rob Adair called for February 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes to be approved.

Amendment to the minutes: In Public Comments in the second paragraph, Linda has requested to strike a line through “whether it’s left on the ground or not.”

Linda Kearney made a motion to accept the minutes; seconded by Selectman Dave Weathers. Motion passed unanimously. (7-0)

2. Public Comment

3. Reports & Other Business:

a. Pinkham Real Estate – proposed tree cutting on Mud Bowl property – Josh not in attendance

b. NH Electric Co-op – cutting/treatment of powerlines – Scott Knapp reported

In full disclosure Scott contacted Chairman Rob Adair about the major transmission line that starts behind Walmart and goes to Intervale Cross Roads, by Cranmore and into Whitaker Woods.

Scott explained that NH Electric is interested in the Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Program and would like to run this by CCC for feedback

They would like to apply the IVM program using herbicides to treat stumps.

Scott explained that this was done a few years ago in Whitaker Woods. As a result, no deciduous trees are growing up in this area. The IVM program is to prevent regrowth.

Scott said that as of right now there is minimal or little growth of what is going on; beyond that there are ferns, berries – a very lush growth.

If CCC is in approval of the IVM program NHEC will be selective and just do wooded trees in late September, after berries have passed.

Scott said this process would take about ½ day and included the following:

- that this would avoid using a mower - like a skid steer
- benefits of not using the mower would leave the low growing vegetation to help with runoff and pollinators, improves native vegetation
- every time a stem is cut it reproduces 6 – 10 new sprouts

Scott came to the CCC to find out how they feel about the use of herbicides.

Scott said that it was beneficial in the past. Since this area was treated already this time would be minimal. Scott said that either way they need to manage their area out there – to either apply the IVM program or use a mower. However, using a mower will only last for a little while, everything will grow back.

Scott is presenting this to the CCC to give options and work on a plan to move forward.

Chairman Rob Adair would like details on the herbicides being used.

Scott reported that this would be a Krenite and Escort mix - 8-10% Krenite mix with Escort. Scott said that they would use 6-7 gallons of mixed product, plus or minus.

He estimates 3 gallons per acre of the mixed product and included that the State is using this to help control invasives out there.

The downside to these herbicides are the carcinogens. Scott informed the committee that they will not use Roundup.

Scott explained that process of application will be via backpack.

Scott is happy to answer any questions for more information.

Chairman Rob Adair: feels differently regarding town property vs personal property. What is put into the grounds will lead to groundwater. Rob would like to look into this more with further discussion.

Selectman Representative David Weathers suggested that recommendation or vote should come before the Board of Selectmen so it can be recorded in the minutes.

Other questions:

What are the other areas this has been done?

Scott informed: Jackson and Bartlett; licensed applicators are following State mandates. Scott was not able to provide information on where this has been done recently.

Does this affect goats? They can still eat the woody stuff.

What lines are you doing?

Scott informed the committee that NHEC manages about 52 miles of line.

For CCC it would be Pudding Woods area and Whitaker Woods - the highland behind Cranmore and through Whitaker Woods

State treats along the railroad tracks; they play by different rules, says Scott

State did treatment in Redstone; they widened it because they thought they would use for trains from Portland, ME

State does this every year or so - Scott was not 100%

Scott said that they treat after they cut. Every five years he would be checking in. He added, when facing Whitaker Woods you'll see trees growing up in to the 34/35 line already. Scott said they will use chainsaws and there will be a skitter bucket on hand. Scott include that a public benefits is that this provides safety by keeping vegetation low.

Scott ask if there were any other questions?

Rob Adair answered, "We have all the information we need."

Scott informed the Committee that they will have to apply through the State to make sure the rates are vetted. Scott said that they don't plan on being out there until summer time.

Rob asked Committee for thoughts (Scott was not present)

Thoughts/concerns included:

- Over a huge aquifer with well-drained soils
- Will need to take some action and justify decision to Board of Selectmen, which will go into the Conway Daily Sun
- Concern about backlash from public

c. Forest Land Improvement – Don Johnson

Rob Adair was informed that Don would not be able to attend this meeting.

d. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer: Sunday, October 20, 2019

Linda Kearney made a motion for the approval to use Whitaker Woods: the motion was seconded by Pat Ferland; passed unanimously (7-0)

e. Election of officers

Prior to this meeting Linda Kearney was sworn in as Treasurer

Larry Huemmler is currently the Vice Chair/Nat Lucy is happy to become the next Vice Chair Rob Adair has been Chair for 5 years.

Dave Weather made a motion to keep current slate; Linda Kearney seconded,

Shortly following, Linda made a motion to remove her seconding; Original motion was removed.

Selectmen Representative David Weathers made a motion for Nat Lucy to be Vice Chair;

Seconded by Pay Ferland; unanimously passed (7-0)

f. Selectmen's Report – David Weathers

i. Final review of 2018 budget of all departments. Conway Conservation Committee had \$2,100 left.

ii. Leash Law - several people have been complaining in regard to the leash law in Whitaker Woods. David Weathers informed the committee that there is not a current leash law; dogs are under voice control

Thoughts from the Committee:

- There is a problem with dogs defecating on trails, specifically in Whitaker Woods
- This is open for discussion; for a public hearing - to hear from the town
- At Echo Lake dogs need to be on leash and the area is managed in summer. There is no one to manage that area in winter.

- Majority of comments is that a leash law is not a bad idea.
- Members of CCC agree that a leash law is not a bad idea
- Additional comments from CCC:
 - Some dogs do not always get along
 - It is rare to see dogs on a leash on a trail

Nat Lucy asked if the leash law can apply to selected areas (e.g. Whitaker Fields)

Linda Kearney mentioned that the same thing happens on the trail behind the police dept. - dogs are not on a leash.

iii. Marshall Property

David talked about putting up “no trailer parking” signs in the Marshall property. He informed the CCC that the Police Chief said that they will not enforce towing vehicles on this property. Signs may be put up, but reinforcement will be a snag.

Rob Adair stated that there is a hold on making the signs and added, since vacation week is over there are not as many trailers. This will still be a concern in the summer - even without snowbanks the lot is small.

Dan Lucy feels that the snow has not been pushed back far enough, making the lot even smaller in the winter.

The fence is on the south side, so the snow banks cannot be pushed in that direction.

Peter Minnich saw two snowmobile trailers in the parking lot, which took up significant amount of space. He mentioned that there was only enough space for two other cars.

David Weathers inquired about action that needed to be taken in regard to the Pinkham Real Estate cutting. Rob Adair replied, since no one showed up to discuss this topic at meeting there is no action to take.

Peter Minnich feels that this is something the CCC should pursue.

Linda Kearney followed with, they can cut on their own land but not on town property.

g. Member Roundtable

Peter Minnich inquired about easement on Pequawket Pond in regard to having lake access.

Peter is not aware of projects supported by the CCC in the Conway area.

Suggested locations: behind the Fire Station and a place on Pequawket Drive, but believe this is private.

CCC has taken of some of these lots at Pequawket drive, specifically for a buffer as protection to the pond. David Weathers does not think they should be doing anything with standing water.

The question from the committee: What’s wrong with putting in behind fire station or laundry mat? Peter Minnich answered: The drop off is about 4 feet and this is a better place to fish - it is popular for kids to fish. Peter has not tried to put his boat in at this location.

Peter discussed parking on the southside of the bridge by Quint street; David Weathers will get a better look after the snow melts.

There is a public launch area in Pea Porridge, but no water connection.

Rob Adair suggests the CCC pull the maps to see what parking is available to look into canoe or kayak launch.

Next Meeting - April 10, 2019 at 6:30pm

Adjourn 7:23, Linda Kearney made a motion to adjourn; David Weathers seconded

**If unable to attend, please contact
Rob Adair 496-5853 or
Jackie White at 447-3811, Ext. 223**