

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, November 8, 2017**

The November monthly 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, Dan Lucy, Linda Kearney, Theresa Gallagher, Recording Secretary

Absent: Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler, Carol Lyman, Treasurer; Karla Allen, Nat Lucy, Alternate; Pat Ferland, Alternate; Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers

Also Attending: Forester Don Johnson, Dick Fortin, Facilities Manager, TMCC

There was not a quorum at this meeting.

1. Approval of the Minutes for 9/13/2017: No quorum.
2. Public Comment:

Dick Fortin, Tin Mountain Conservation Center Facilities Manager, spoke about the Brook Trout Habitat Restoration Project program at TMCC. It involves research on the influence of adding woody material to small fresh water streams to enhance size and abundance of brook trout populations. The project began eight years ago when the Natural Resource Conservation Services approached TMCC and asked them to work on improving the trout habitat in fresh water streams in Carroll County. Since then they have been treating streams where there are no fish at all. The staff have treated 16 miles of streams, from Chatham down to Sandwich. The project has been successful and continues to improve the trout habitat in many fresh water streams. They completed 6% of the streams to create the wood habitats. The goal is to increase treatments to 10% of the streams. The project is looking for interns to be involved with collecting baseline information on all streams, electro-shock fishing, making new wood additions, and re-assessing streams treated. This project involves strenuous work as well as extensive data collections. The staff reviews biological attributes of the streams, water quality and fish populations. The electro-shock fishing is done every year in July and they have seen an increase in the fish population.

Rob Adair asked if they are mechanically anchoring the wood when they drop it into the stream. Dick Fortin said they try to put wood behind standing trees, and use larger diameters. Dan Lucy asked about the size of the streams; Dick said they focus on fresh water streams that are about 18 inches wide. Dick Fortin announced that they have a workshop tomorrow, Part II, to train individuals who may be interested in doing this kind of work through NRCS. He said the wood addition season is from May to September. The trees are tagged and monitored to see how much has moved by the end of the season. The water quality testing is done every month, and several other monitoring is done throughout the season. It has evolved into a research project, which they hope will continue for many years. Rob Adair thanked Dick Fortin for presenting an update on the program. Dick Fortin invited the Conway Conservation Commission to take a field trip next year to observe the work being done in the streams.

Forester Don Johnson gave an update on this year's projects. The timber sale at Whitaker Woods has been initiated and the project is moving along quickly. Don negotiated the timber sale with John Kheil and Sons Logging. They have been logging in there two weeks, and without the challenging weather, they would have been done sooner. The land is well drained. Three kinds of equipment are used for the job. The first one is a bunchier; he cuts the trees and puts them in a pile. The second machine that comes in is the processor, and he measures the logs, cuts them to length and puts them to the side. The final machine that comes in is the forwarder, which will complete the job of corduroying the skid road. They leave a lot less of a footprint and it's easy on the soils. At this point, all the trees marked have been cut and processed. Don Johnson said tomorrow he will let the forwarder know which areas to work on.

Some trails have been left open. There are signs posted to let hikers know that logging is going on. Don Johnson reported that they expect to be done in about 7 to 10 days. They may have to put some gravel on the power line trail. They also will fix the entire trail crossing to complete the final phase of the job. The team is doing a great job, and are easy to work with. Kearsage Road has a mud hole right in front of the gate; they will put a truck load of 1 ½ inch stone over it. Don reported that he received a phone call from a resident who built his house right on the property line. He wanted some trees cut down. However, there is a risk of doing damage to his house. Don told the owner that if he finds someone to cut down the trees, Don would work with him, but only on the trees that are a threat to his house. There is an access way right into that area.

Don Johnson reported that he flagged the bypass corridor with hot pink flags. The Town does not own the trees there. Half of the landing is in the corridor, which is about 225 feet wide.

Don reported that Noah, one of his workers, did a thorough job cleaning the Abenaki Trail. They got some of the bitter sweet out of the trees, and cut some of the trees out of the burning bush. They did some pruning, too. That job is completed.

Don Johnson commented that the timber sale will help the Forestry Budget.

Don Johnson reported that he received a call from Court Hanson regarding her concerns about the shape that the trails will be in, and he explained how they will finish the job, leaving the trails in good shape. Don told the Conservation Commission that if they hear from anyone who wants to have public input, or they want to communicate concerns that they have, direct the calls to him.

3. Round Table Discussion: Rob Adair commented that he will contact the Conservation Commission members to see if they would like to cancel December's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Theresa Ann Gallagher*

Recording Secretary