

Conway Conservation Commission

WEDNESDAY, May 9th, 2022 6:30 P.M.

Present: Chair Rob Adair, Vice Chair Nat Lucy, Larry Huemmler, Dan Lucy
Selectmen's Representative David Weathers, Treasurer Linda Kearney, Peter
Minnich,

Absent:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Adair at 6:35 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the **March 12th** commission meeting were approved unanimously. Linda Kearney motioned to accept the minutes, with David Weathers seconding. The motion passed unanimously, with Larry & Nat abstaining.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

3. Reports and Other Business

Rob Adair reported on a number of issues for the commission's information:

- The conservation commission was asked for comments on the Conway Village Main Street Project. The project will reconfigure the intersection at the Conway Public Library and stops short of the Saco River bridge. There are no wetlands nor any conservation lands within the project area and Rob replied to Underwood Engineers that we had no comments.
- The North Conway Community Center plans to use Whitaker Woods for their spring and summer outdoor programs. Rob and John Eastman conferred and agreed no permit or fee is needed, unless use of the Whitaker House is requested. John E. said he was working on a proposal for review by the selectmen for requested use of the Whitaker House by non-profit organizations.
- Approvals for the White Mountain Milers proposals for the ongoing Tuesday fun runs (June through August) and Bucks for Bernie event (July 23rd) were confirmed.
- The White Mountains Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (WM NEMBA) received grant funding to rebuild/maintain bog bridges in the Pudding Pond/NHDOT Mitigation Lands

- The NHDOT drainage structure in Shedd Woods has failed and created an erosion gully in the embankment overlooking the Saco River. A significant area of sedimentation is present but does not extend to the river. Paul D. has been notified to contact NHDOT.
- The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (USVLT) has taken title to a donated parcel of land on Crown Ridge Road, which they are calling Kearsarge Brook Preserve (Tax Map/Lot no. 203/43). This 17.5 acre parcel abuts and partially surrounds a 2.2 acre parcel owned by the town. Abby King of USVLT contacted Rob to see about them managing both parcels together. Rob notified Selectmen's rep Weathers and town manager Tom Holmes, who agreed this made sense. The commissioners also agreed with this approach, with the stipulation that the town be informed of any plans or timber harvests on the property.

Infrastructure Planning

The commission discussed infrastructure improvements, such as interpretive signage at Walker's Pond (Conway Lake), parking improvements and trail planning. It was decided to assign stewards to each property as follows:

- Whitaker Woods – Nat, Rob
- Marshall Conservation Area – Rob, Dan, Larry
- East Conway Common Lands – Larry
- Hubbard-Davis/Abenaki – Nat
- Walker's Pond – Linda, Peter
- Hurricane Mountain Road Common Lands – Nat, Rob, Larry
- Shedd Woods – Dan, Rob
- Pudding Pond/NHDOT Mitigation Lands – Nat, Rob

Member Roundtable

Nat Lucy reported on proposed changes to winter use of Whitaker Woods. Nat met with Peter Donohoe and Steve Vosburg on site and came up with a proposed plan to establish a 5k to 7k loop for skiers only, with a separate 7k to 8k group of trails open to all users. Some tree work is proposed as well as some parking area changes. Nat will work with Tim Nolin to get an estimate for the tree work. Rob suggested developing additional gravel from the borrow pit created a few years ago to raise the tread in seasonal wet areas on the Perimeter Trail as part of Whitaker trail improvements.

Larry reported that a large clearcut was done next to the East Conway Common Lands.

Linda moved to adjourn at 7:35, with Peter seconding. The motion passed unanimously.