

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2022**

The October monthly meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at **6:30 PM** at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH.

Present: Chairman, Rob Adair; Vice Chairman, Nat Lucy; Selectmen's Representative, David Weathers; Peter Minnich; Dan Lucy; Treasurer, Linda Kearney; and Recording Secretary, Jacqueline White.

Absent: Larry Huemmler

Also Attending: Tim Nolin, Forest Land Improvement; Peter Donohoe, Lynn Lyman, and Steve Vosburg, Volunteers for Whitaker Woods project; and Chris Meier, Mt Washington Valley Trails Association.

1. Approval of the Minutes for September 14, 2022:

Mr. Dan Lucy made a motion to accept the September 14, 2022 minutes as written; seconded by Ms. Linda Kearney. Motion passed unanimously. (6-0)

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports & Other Business:

A. Forest Land Improvement - Tim Nolin

Mr. Tim Nolin with Forest Land Improvement shared that the excavation work in Whitaker Woods was completed after the last meeting.

Mr. Rob Adair asked Mr. Nat Lucy how the Board of Selectmen meeting went on September 27th. Mr. Nat Lucy shared it went well; he requested half of the timber sale money, and the Selectmen voted to give the Commission a total of \$5,000.00. Mr. Nat Lucy said they are still figuring out how much money will be needed for signage. He stated the plan is to put in three kiosks; one at Kearsarge Road entrance, one at John Fuller entrance, and one at the Whitaker Meeting house site. He shared that he is donating the materials for the kiosks, and a local contractor, Ansel Gifford is donating his time to build the kiosks.

Peter Donohoe, Lynn Lyman, and Steve Vosburg introduced themselves to the Commission. They are volunteering with the Whitaker Woods Project. Mr. Donohoe shared a map of the trail system of Whitaker Woods. The trails are color coded; green trails are multi-use for winter time (fat tire biking, walking, etc.) and the yellow trails are designate cross country skiing trails. Mr. Donohoe shared that they got permission and access granted from Memorial Hospital and the Northbrook Condominium Association to groom their trail and use it, which seemed to be the missing link to make it all work.

Mr. Donohoe stated that one of the trails designated for multi-use is approximately 2.5 miles long with a decent amount of variety. He shared that the middle of the complex is going to be for skiers just as it always was. The skiers will be able to enjoy a lot less walking intrusions on those trails. Mr. Donohoe shared that walkers will have several options; short, medium, or longer walks. He said there are a few exceptions where the trails will intersect each other. Mr. David Weathers asked at those intersections will there be signage to instruct walkers and skiers which trail to stay on. Mr. Donohoe answered in the affirmative and shared the different trails will be color coded and they are working on creating a symbol for the skiing only trails. There was a brief discussion on grooming the different trails.

Mr. Rob Adair asked if there will be a way for walkers to get from here (Whitaker Meeting House) to the quarry trail (the new trail). Mr. Nat Lucy said we are aware of that gap and are working on it, he thinks maybe behind the back stop is a possibility. He said between John Fuller and the playground, they are going to snake a trail through there, but unfortunately, we are running out of time this year to get everything perfect.

Mr. Peter Donohoe shared that we are going to rely on signs, but also Ski Touring members will be here helping to educate the public on the new trail system. He suggests a form of community outreach such as an open house or trails day to educate the public.

There was a brief discussion about dog walking and skiing with dogs.

Mr. Peter Donohoe said there will be a Ski Touring map with all this information on trails. Mr. Dan Lucy suggested major directional signs at big intersections.

Mr. Tim Nolin said at the last meeting he was asked to take a look at Hubbard Davis and tree cutting near the property line near Intervale Crossroads. He informed the board that he found nothing near the property line. He stated that he re-marked that property line 5-6 years ago.

B. MWV Rec Path, Phase 2 – Chris Meier

Mr. Chris Meier with the Mt Washington Valley Trails Association shared they are currently building Phase 1 of the Rec Path, which runs from Cranmore Mountain to Hemlock Lane. He shared this is an entry level, graded, paved, ADA compliant trail. He said the reason he is here tonight is to talk to the Commission about Phase 2 of the Rec Path. Phase 2 will be built north of Phase 1 to connect Cranmore to the Scenic Vista. He would like to talk to the Commission about using a section of Whitaker Woods for Phase 2. Mr. Meier handed out a map to the Commission showing the preferred route, which traces the By-Pass corridor, and NHDOT still owns that section through Whitaker Woods. The trail would enter Whitaker Wood conservation land, and would need the Commission's permission. Mr. Meier asked the Commission for comments.

Mr. Peter Minnich asked if the new hotel proposed at former Cannells property will affect this? Mr. Chris Meier answered in the negative, because it will be just north of that property.

Mr. David Weathers asked if the State has said when they are unloading the By-Pass land. Mr. Chris Meier said Paul DegliAngeli, Town Engineer would know and that the Town would have first refusal to these pieces of land.

Mr. Tim Nolin asked if there is a deed restriction in Whitaker Woods that would not allow paving of the pathway? Mr. Chris Meier said that the part they would be using is not under that deed restriction, this piece was bought by the Town later than the donated parcel. Ms. Linda Kearney stated she feels you will

probably get less resistance if its stone dust and not pavement. Mr. Meier said the preference is pavement, because it is an entry level trail and they need a surface that is not intimidating to people. There was a brief discussion on pavement vs. stone dust and condition of trails.

Mr. Chris Meier said the design process for Phase 2 is estimated to take two years, and the construction would be finished within five years.

There was a brief discussion regarding grooming and or plowing of the Rec Path in the winter.

Mr. Chris Meier thanked the Commission for their time.

C. Selectmen's Report:

Mr. David Weathers said there has been a big transition with the new Town Manager and John Eastman has really stepped up.

D. Member Roundtable:

Mr. Rob Adair shared that he got an application for a boat lift from David Hubelbank at 125 Hill Road, it is a Wetlands Permit by Notification, but requires a signature from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Adair asked the Commission if they were any concerns. The Commission answered in the negative. Mr. Adair stated he will sign off on this application.

Next Meeting: The next CCC meeting will be on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH.

Adjourn: Ms. Linda Kearney made a motion to adjourn at 7:23 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Dan Lucy. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Jacqueline White
Recording Secretary