**MINUTES**

**Sanbornton Conservation Commission**

**Meeting Date and Time:** Thursday, July 12th, 2018 at 7:00 PM

**Meeting Place:** Town Offices, 573 Sanborn Road, Sanbornton, N.H.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brad Crosby at 7:00 PM

Present: Chair Brad Crosby, Dick Ayers, Mark Ledgard, John Earley, Karen Bordeau, Mary Ahlgren

**Minutes**

Chair Brad Crosby made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 6/14. Dick Ayers seconded the motion and the motion passed, with Mary Ahlgren and Karen Bordeau abstaining.

**New Business**

**a.** **Trail committee update –** Mark Ledgard stated that he has spoken with the School Board about the proposed trail from the elementary school parking lot to the library, and though they are in favor of this they would like to see a written proposal. He stated that the church would like information on meets and bounds before approving this as well, but that the trail could go around the church property if needed. The church will meet the 18th and discuss this. Mark has drafted a written proposal that he will present to the School Board. Chair Crosby stated that the trail will not be in place before Old Home Day, as he would rather have everything in place to build the trail correctly rather than rushing to get it done by then.

**Old Business**

**a. Conservation Commission balances –** Chair Crosby reported that there is a balance of $452.81 from appropriation from the Town, but he will check with the Town Treasurer on which account this will reside in. A total of $9,964 is in the Conservation Fund, which includes the donation from Dr. Willette; $78,073 is in the Forest Maintenance Fund, and $48,024 is in the Land Use Change Tax Fund. Karen Bordeau stated that she would like to see a report on a regular basis, perhaps quarterly, on what lands are being taken out of current use. Chair Crosby stated he will look into this with the Assessing Assistant.

**b.** **Member re-appointments –** Chair Crosby and Mary Ahlgren have been re-appointed and sworn in by the Board of Selectmen. Several residents interested in becoming alternate members were invited to this meeting but didn’t show up; Mary Ahlgren will speak to one of them that she knows, and Secretary Audry Barriault will reach out to the others and invite them to the next meeting. After attending a meeting, those interested in becoming alternates will need to fill out an online interest form, and then the Conservation Commission can vote on recommending/not recommending appointments to the BOS.

**d. Forester contract –** Chair Crosby stated that he has left a message for Jon Martin regarding the Forester Contract that was sent to him that still has not been signed, and he is awaiting a response.

**e. Land acquisitions –** Chair Crosby stated that he has sent a letter to Megwood regarding the large parcels of land in town that it owns, but has not received a response. Karen Bordeau noted that she liked Mark Ledgard’s idea from the last meeting of trying to conserve large open fields in Sanbornton. John Earley noted that the Master Plan states that Sanbornton should stay rural, so this is part of the Conservation Commission’s mission. Mary Ahlgren suggested that the Conservation Commission should advocate for restriction in deeds that do not allow for future subdivisions of property. Mark Ledgard suggested writing an article highlighting the Conservation Commission’s efforts for the local newspaper, and Dick Ayers suggested perhaps making this a quarterly article. John Earley suggested mentioning the hiking trails on Eastman Hill in the article as well.

Mary Ahlgren suggested asking Jon Martin about managing the clean-up work on the hiking trails, as there is money for this and he is the Town Forester. Dick Ayers made a motion for Chair Brad Crosby to approach Jon Martin to see if he can conduct a feasibility study of the Eastman Hill trails, to include:

* Possible removal of fallen trees from the stone wall on the Blue trail
* Selective logging
* Opening up certain acreage to allow for scenic views

Mary Ahlgren seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Crosby stated that he would also like to run this idea past Dr. Willette, as he has made donations to the Conservation Commission with the goal of maintaining these trails, and all members were in agreement.

**Other Business**

**a. Join Land Use Boards Meeting –** This annual meeting of the Historic District Commission, Conservation Commission, Planning Board and Zoning Board will be held on August 2nd at 7:00pm at the Old Town Hall.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.**

Respectfully Submitted, Audry Barriault