**MINUTES**

**Sanbornton Conservation Commission**

**Meeting Date and Time:** Thursday, August 9th, 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 7:10 PM

Present: Chair Brad Crosby, Dick Ayers, John Earley, Karen Bordeau

Others Present: Sarah Fox, possibly Alternate

**Minutes**

Chair Brad Crosby made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 7/12. Dick Ayers seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**a.** Discussion of Eastman Hill Trails maintenance – Town Forester Jon Martin was in attendance to speak with the Commission about possible tree maintenance on Eastman Hill. Chair Crosby explained that the Commission would like Jon to complete a feasibility study of the Eastman Hill trails to address trees down on the stone wall (boundary for Steele Hill’s property), as well as possibly logging to expand the view. Jon stated that he can either do this himself with a cable skidder or do a bid sale so that the Commission could possibly make more money from the timber. He stated that the skidder would have the least impact to the trails but here may not be any revenue. Chair Crosby stated that he would prefer that the Commission makes some money from the logging. Dick Ayers asked what the best time of year would be to do this work. Jon responded that the winter can be very cold then followed by a lot of rain, and summer rain is easier to deal with so they could plan on this winter but use next summer for backup. He also noted that whole tree cutting would be beneficial, because equipment could lift the trees off the stone wall rather than cutting small pieces and dragging them.

Both Chair Crosby and Karen Bordeau agreed that they would prefer a commercial bid sale for this size of lot. Jon stated that he would like a letter from Steele Hill agreeing to the work as well, because the stone wall is their property boundary. He suggested also notifying Dr. Willette, who donated funds for the trails, of this work as well.

Chair Crosby made a motion for Town Forester Jon Martin to draw up a plan for a timber harvest on Eastman Hill to remove trees from the stone wall as well as expand the view. Karen Bordeau seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Jon Martin will review the Forester Contract and sign and return to the Commission.

**Other Business**

**a. Trail Committee Update –** Dick Ayers stated that the church has approved the Commission’s nature trail going across their land. The School Board has given the initial O.K. for the trail as well, but the plan needs to go to the Superintendent. Dick explained that a more detailed plan will be needed, including surveyed distances. The trail will need to be 7-feet wide; it is a nature trail which does not have to be ADA-compliant but needs to be wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair if it is upgraded in the future. He suggested asking the BOS if they would consider having the Highway Department Director oversee the project. Chair Crosby stated that he will wait until the School Board meeting on Monday, August 13th and then decide if he should attend the next BOS meeting on the 22nd.

**b. Conservation Commission fund balances –** Chair Crosby stated that he will try to meet with the Town Treasurer to get an updated report regularly on fund balances.

**c. Discussion on Solar Energy Ordinance –** Chair Crosby explained that he and Karen Bordeau attended the recent Joint Land Use Boards Meeting and learned about the Planning Board’s work on updating the current solar energy ordinance. The Planning Board would like input from the Conservation Commission on this. The updated ordinance will include more of the NH Sustainable Energy Association’s model solar energy ordinance, and Karen stated that she has made some notes about some natural resource issues in the model ordinance but she will wait to provide these notes until the Planning Board discusses further.

**d. Possible Alternate Member –** Sarah Fox attended the meeting as she is interested in becoming an Alternate Member. She has filled out the Volunteer Interest Form which the Commission will review at the next meeting. If recommended as an Alternate, she will need to be scheduled to go to a BOS meeting and be sworn in.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Audry Barriault