

MINUTES

Sanbornton Conservation Commission

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, August 13th, 2020 at 6:30 PM

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brad Crosby at 6:30 PM

Present: Chair Brad Crosby, Dave Perry, Doug Sarette, Dick Ayers, Karen Bordeaux, Mary Ahlgren, Ray Masse, Selectman Jim Dick

New Business

a. Discussion about possible conservation easement with owner Nancy Mitiguy – Nancy explained that she has a 25-acre parcel on Perkins Rd (Tax Map 26, Lot 63) and is interested in doing a conservation easement, with a small portion set aside for a house lot in the future. She stated that she wants to retain ownership but prohibit this area from being developed as much of Sanbornton has. She asked what is involved in the easement appraisal and survey, who pays for what, and what restrictions can be enforced as part of the easement. Chair Crosby stated that the easement appraisal is paid for by the landowner and that she may want to do this piece before the survey, and he provided easement appraiser names and phone numbers to Nancy. He noted that certain agricultural activities can remain on a conservation easement but he will find out for sure. He also stated that the Conservation Commission would pay for title search and recording fees.

Karen stated that conservation easements usually begin with a simple template that can be adjusted by the owner to add in restrictions. Nancy asked if she will need to subdivide the house lot in the future onto its own lot or if it would be considered part of the same parcel; Chair Crosby stated that he will check on this. Selectman Jim Dick noted that this area is in the Village Historic District; in this district 1.5 acres is needed to build, with a road frontage minimum of 175 feet.

Chair Crosby noted that Nancy's property would allow the Conservation Commission to connect to the property purchased on Hunkins Pond Rd several years ago, and it is a goal of the Commission to connect more pieces.

Minutes

Chair Crosby made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 7/9. Mary Ahlgren seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

a. School-Library Trail Naming – Mary Ahlgren proposed the following trail name: "The Library Path: Honoring Sanbornton's Past, Present, and Future Conservationists". Dick Ayers made a motion to use the name and motto for the school-library trail. Chair Crosby seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Members will look for large rocks to have engraved for the sign entrances and discuss at the next meeting. No names memorializing or thanking specific people will be included on this sign or any others on the trail.

b. Trail Maintenance Update – Dave Perry has not been able to get in touch with the manager at Steele Hill to talk about a combined trail map, though he has mapped it using GPS. He noted that there is more blazing needed on some trails that novices would find hard to navigate, and that Steele Hill has signs on their trails stating wheeled vehicles/snowmobiles are prohibited which could perhaps be purchased for these trails as well. He stated that there are more maps needed at the kiosk at the trailhead also.

c. Newsletter – Ray provided a draft of the newsletter which was slated to be handed out at Old Home Day which has recently been canceled. The group discussed other locations where they could be distributed, such as the library in their curbside pick-up bags, the Artisan's Market on Wednesdays and at Steele Hill. Selectman Dick noted that they are trying to discourage people hanging around at the Transfer Station so he wouldn't recommend that spot for distribution.

d. Land Acquisition – Chair Crosby stated that members should continue to look at other possible areas for purchase or easement, even while working with Nancy Mitiguy on the Perkins Rd parcel.

Other Business

a. Tax Map 25/Lot 12 Logging – Town Forester Jon Martin reported that there is not a lot of wood, maybe three or four loads of white pine, in this 6-acre parcel discussed at previous meetings. The abutter to this Conservation Commission-owned parcel asked if the Commission would consider having this logged to create a view. Karen stated that she is concerned about the parcel as it pertains to wildlife travel and the spring that is located under it. The members decided not to pursue this, as the market for white pine has been unpredictable and creating a view is not a good enough reason to log the property.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10th at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Audry Barriault