

MINUTES

Sanbornton Conservation Commission

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, October 8th 2020 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, Dave Perry, Dick Ayers, Karen Bordeau, Mary Ahlgren, Ray Masse

Minutes

Mary Ahlgren made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 9/10 with corrections. Chair Brad Crosby seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

a. School-Library Trail Rock Engraving – Chair Crosby will call Justin Piscopo regarding getting a rock for the engraving. Karen may have a rock on her property that will work as well.

b. Trail Maintenance Update – Dave stated that he spoke with a manager at Steele Hill about combining their trails with the Commission's trails on Eastman Hill but was told that they are concerned about possible lawsuits if someone gets injured. Dave sent him information from the RSAs which states that landowners are protected if they are providing use of their land for recreation without fees. Chair Crosby stated that it would be best to revisit this at a later date when things calm down with COVID, as he is sure Steele Hill is busy with other things at the moment. Dave noted that there are logging roads that branch off from the marked hiking trails and suggested including these on maps as they are wide and pleasant to hike.

c. Newsletter – Ray distributed the newsletter at the library and artisan's market and also posted it to Facebook. He will also leave some in the town office. He was not sure about having them available at the upcoming presidential election for people to take on their way out, but will check with Tim Lang about this as he is the Town Moderator.

d. Land Acquisition – Chair Crosby stated that Nancy Mitiguy would like to walk her property with Jon Martin to investigate where trails would go, and maybe locate some existing trails as well, before doing the conservation easement she discussed with the Commission previously. He stated that she would like to do the easement appraisal because she plans to give the Conservation Commission a discounted price for the parcel and take the rest as tax deferment. He has reached out to Belknap County Conservation District about a sample conservation easement contract but hasn't heard back; Audry found one online and will distribute to members. Chair Crosby will confirm that there is no approval needed from voters to expend money in the Land Use Change Tax Fund to buy this easement.

Ray explained there is a piece of property between Dr. True Rd and Lower Bay that has an abandoned house and car on it and it appears border existing Conservation property, and therefore may be of interest to possibly purchase. He will research this.

Other Business

a. NH Association of Conservation Commissions Membership/Webinar – Chair Crosby made a motion to renew this membership in the amount of \$275, especially given that the Mitiguy easement is on Commission's agenda for the near future. Mary Ahlgren seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Dave mentioned that their yearly meeting is virtual this year; Chair Crosby stated that if members are interested in doing this on November 7th they will be reimbursed.

b. Shute Hill cellar holes – Dave stated that there is an old, exposed cellar hole on Conservation property on Shute Hill and thinks that this is a hazard; he, Chair Crosby and Dick will look at this next week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **December 10th** (no meeting in November as many members absent) at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Audry Barriault