

## MINUTES

### Sanbornton Conservation Commission

**Meeting Date and Time:** Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 7:00 PM

**Meeting Place:** Virtual only via Zoom

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, Selectman Jim Dick

#### Minutes

Chair Crosby made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 10/8 with corrections. Mary Ahlgren seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with votes as follows:

Crosby/Yes; Perry/Yes; Ayers/Yes; Bordeau/Yes; Ahlgren/Yes; Masse/Yes; Dick/Yes

#### New Business

**a. New member interest** – Amanda Osmer joined the meeting and explained she would be interested in helping the Commission. She is involved with the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and stated that they have been very interested in conserving land in Sanbornton as they currently have zero acres conserved in town right now. She may be interested in becoming an Alternate but does have other commitments but would like to help the Commission in any way.

**b. Easement monitoring** – Chair Crosby explained that he did complete the easement monitoring on the Swain and Meader properties but has not reported back to Steve Walker on these yet; he is making a plan to do that soon.

#### Old Business

**a. School-library trail rocks** – Chair Crosby explained that he looked at some rocks at Karen's property to potentially engrave and use at the trail head, but found that there are two rocks about twenty feet from actual trail already that would be perfect for this. One could be used as support and the other is flat and could be engraved. Dick volunteered to ask Matt Swain if he may be able to use his equipment to move the rocks over to the head of the trail; members agreed he should do this.

**b. Land acquisition** – Chair Crosby hasn't spoken to Nancy Mitiguy since before the last meeting but he will get an update from her and report back to the Commission next month. Dave Perry explained that he's found a few parcels at the end of Knox Mountain Rd, some of which border Army Corp property that would be prime candidates for conserving. Amanda noted that she can put Dave in touch with Lakes Region Conservation Trust regarding these lots as they have been interested as well. Two of the pieces total \$74,900. They do connect to Town-owned land in addition to bordering the Army Corp property. Chair Crosby and Dave will walk these parcels.

A parcel on Rt 132 was mentioned by Karen; Ray stated that the Town Clerk brought this up to him as well, but it turns out it is only .7 acres and not 58 acres as originally thought. He and Chair Crosby will go investigate it anyway.

**c. Trout in the Classroom update** – Chair Crosby checked out the brook where the trout were released last spring and saw a small school of fingerlings. He has already talked with Faith Sanborn at Sanbornton Central and unfortunately will have to wait until next year to do this program again.

### **Other Business**

**a. Black Brook/Trout Unlimited** – Chari Crosby explained that Trout Unlimited has completed a culvert study in this area and has permission to begin adding wood and other natural debris to the brook to improve trout habitat. They intend to start early summer with this work. Chair Crosby stated that he would like to talk to Belknap County Conservation again before the work begins and other members agreed.

**b. Update on possible land acquisition on Dr. True Rd** – Selectman Dick explained that this piece of property mentioned by Ray at the last meeting is no longer available. He explained that the State Supreme Court has recently ruled that any profit on the sale that exceeds what the Town was owed in taxes and interest must go back to whoever has rights to the property, i.e. original owner, children, or spouse. If the Town sells a property it must try to find the person who is entitled to the proceeds, and if nobody is found then the proceeds go into a trust fund to be held while the State tries to find someone. If they do not, then the State takes the funds, so it is no longer in the Town's interest to hold onto a deeded property for 3 years before selling.

**c. Current use webinar** – Ray attended a webinar on current use and noted that this would be a good entry for the next newsletter; Amanda stated that Lakes Region Conservation may already have a piece on this that can be used.

**d. Trail maps** – Dave stated there are only four maps left at the trail head for Eastman Hill trails; Ray will get more maps printed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Audry Barriault