

MINUTES

Sanbornton Conservation Commission

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, March 11th 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, Mary Ahlgren, Ray Masse, Selectman Jim Dick

Minutes

Mary Ahlgren made a motion to approve the draft minutes 2/11 with corrections. Ray Masse seconded the motion and the motion passed with votes as follows:

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

New Business

a. Conservation Commission membership – Chair Brad Crosby, Mary Ahlgren and Dave Perry are up for reappointment. Mary explained that she will not be continuing as a member; members begrudgingly accepted her resignation and thanked her for her years of service to the Commission. Audry will send the volunteer form to Dave and Chair Crosby which will be needed for the Selectmen to vote on their reappointments. Voting on officer positions will be on the Conservation Commission's April agenda. Ray Masse made a motion to recommend Dave Perry and Brad Crosby for reappointment; Mary Ahlgren seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with votes as follows:

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

b. Discussion with Donna Hepp of Belknap County Conservation District regarding Black Brook – Donna explained that they are still waiting on a couple responses from property owners before putting large pieces of wood into the stream but this wouldn't start until August/September. She explained that an engineer has been hired to look at a problem culvert on Black Brook Rd; a major federal grant may be a possibility depending on the outcome from the study. She is looking at Chapman Brook for stream habitat restoration as well and there may be federal monies for that. She also noted that Sanbornton may qualify for a forest management plan; Chair Crosby explained that the Town does have one and has a Town Forester.

Old Business

a. School-library trail rocks – Dick Ayers has spoken with Matt Swain about moving the rocks to the trailhead so they can then be engraved. Members agreed to wait until they are in place before getting a quote on engraving.

b. Land acquisition – Chair Crosby stated that he's not sure if Nancy Mitiguy has had a survey completed on her property yet, but this was her plan a few weeks ago. He will check in with her in a couple weeks if he hasn't heard anything. Dave Perry asked if the Commission is still interested in the property off Knox Mountain Rd and Chair Crosby stated that he isn't sure how much funding will be left after the Mitiguy easement is purchased. Ray suggested reaching out to Lakes Region Conservation Trust and seeing if purchasing the Knox Mtn piece can be worked on jointly with LRCT, but the Commission would need to decide if it's an important piece for conservation or not. Chair Crosby and Dave will go look at the property in May.

c. Trail update – The bottom access to the trail on Plummer Rd is still blocked though it is a moot point now as snow begins to melt.

d. Newsletter – Dick provided a list of article topics for the next issue of the newsletter. Ideas include advantages of conserved land versus development, the new Sanbornton Land Conservation Fund, current use, and woodpeckers. Ray stated that LRCT may already have something written about current use that could at least go on the town website if not the newsletter. Mary suggested also just putting links to articles about certain issues on the website versus in the newsletter. Ray stated that the May 15th Town Meeting may be a good place for newsletter distribution.

Other Business

a. Shoreline permits – Ray will continue looking into the shoreline permitting process through DES and report back to the Commission.

b. Roadside clean-up day – The Commission decided on Saturday, April 24th for roadside clean-up day. Chair Crosby and Dick will hand out bags at the gazebo like last year. Audry will put a post on Facebook and the town website about the event. Ray will fill out the application for more NH the Beautiful trash bags and Dave will pick them up in Epsom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 8th at 7:00 and will be virtual only.

Respectfully submitted,
Audry Barriault