

MINUTES
Sanbornton Conservation Commission

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday August 12th 2021 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Place: Town Offices, 573 Sanborn Rd, Sanbornton NH

Present: Chair Brad Crosby, Karen Bordeau, Dick Ayers, Dave Perry, Gail Morrison, Selectman Jim Dick

Approval of draft minutes of 7/8 – Dick Ayers made a motion to approve the draft minutes. Karen Bordeau seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

a. Discussion with Town Forester Jon Martin - Chair Crosby explained that Jon couldn't make it tonight but will be invited to the September meeting. He would like to discuss logging the Eastman Hill property with Jon.

b. Subdivision set-aside requirement (discussed at joint land use meeting) - Karen recapped this discussion from the land use boards meeting on August 5th; Planning Board member Will Ellis was concerned about the minimum set-aside requirement of 5% on any subdivision greater than 10 acres and the location chosen by owners/developers for these. The Planning Board can require a greater number than 5% per State statute. Karen stated that the wildlife corridor map she is working on will help provide guidance when the Planning Board reviews subdivision plans to determine the best location for a conservation set-aside.

Karen noted that Planning Board Assistant Steve Laurin sends out subdivision plans to boards before they go to Planning Board; Chair Crosby stated that he will invite Steve to a Conservation Commission meeting to discuss. He stated that getting input on the set-aside location before the plan goes to Planning Board is important since the plans will be costly to re-draw if needed.

Old Business

a. Trail maintenance update - Dave explained that he has cleaned up the Yellow trail and he would like help with the Blue trail also; Dick stated he can help. Dave noted that the field should be cut as there are a lot of saplings and the view is becoming obstructed; Chair Crosby responded that this is something to discuss with Jon Martin. Chair Crosby also noted that he still needs to get in touch with Steele Hill about connecting hiking trails.

b. School-Library trail - Dick stated that there is a little washout on the trail; he and Chair Crosby will fix it.

c. Newsletter - Dick explained that the next newsletter can be presented at the September meeting for final edits and then released at the end of September/early October. Topics for the Fall newsletter were discussed at last month's meeting; Karen will add a piece about wildlife corridor mapping.

d. Land Acquisitions/Mitiguy easement document - Members were tasked with reviewing the easement draft and noting any concerns or questions. Karen stated that there are lots of references to "Appendix A, B and C", but these seem to be missing from the document entirely. She noted that the contract refers to limited recreation use which is unclear. She stated that there is no limitation on camping which is a concern; Selectman Dick responded that commercial camping is prohibited so that may not be an issue.

Karen stated that pg 8 refers to vegetation management and mentions "baseline documentation" which is not defined. She added that there should be a boundary map showing features and isn't sure if a forest management plan exists. Dave stated that pg 16 refers to the holder as a charitable organization which may not be an accurate description of the Conservation Commission or Town; the easement is also referred to as a gift which may not be appropriate. Chair Crosby stated that this falls into the category of a bargain sale; Karen noted that the language came from a template which is probably why some of it doesn't fit quite right.

Dave stated that the document mentions the easement can be disposed of if the holder and landowner agree. He added that it also stated the landowner is responsible for any costs associated with the holder having to enforce the easement, and Chair Crosby explained that an example would be if illegal camping was taking place and needed to be cleaned up. Dave noted that recreation is limited to trails only which may be an issue if the Commission wants to monitor what's going on outside of those trails.

Chair Crosby stated that there was language about selling carbon dioxide credits which he is unclear on. He would like to set up an appointment with the Town's attorney to go over these issues; Dave and Gail would like to join.

e. Wildlife corridor mapping – Karen provided a wildlife corridor map using tracks from winter 2020 and 2021. She noted this is just a snapshot of the town in a condensed time period but would like to be able to map the wildlife routes during other seasons. Audry suggested using Facebook for getting input from residents in other seasons where they routinely see wildlife (adding a pin on a Google map). Audry will test it out and discuss it at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 9th at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Audry Barriault