

MINUTES
Sanbornton Conservation Commission

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, October 14th 2021 at 7:00 PM
Meeting Place: Town Offices, 573 Sanborn Rd, Sanbornton NH

Present: Chair Brad Crosby, Ray Masse, Dick Ayers, Dave Perry, Gail Morrison, Karen Borgeau

Approval of draft minutes of 9/9/21 – Chair Brad Crosby made a motion to approve the draft minutes. Gail Morrison seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

a. Trail maintenance update – Dave Perry stated that the Town has filled in an old well on the Eastman Hill trails with some rocks; the hole was a safety hazard.

b. School-Library trail – Chair Crosby or Dick Ayers will talk to the Highway Dept about moving the boulders to the trailhead for engraving since their equipment is across the street.

c. Newsletter – Ray will work on putting together the draft articles he's received from members. Gail suggested distributing the newsletter at the Historical Society craft fair at Lane Tavern in December.

d. Land acquisition – Chair Crosby heard from a landowner interested in putting an easement on a large parcel of land with Lakes Region Conservation Trust; the landowner received a contract from LRCT but Chair Crosby will try to reach Don Berry at LRCT again about the contract. The Conservation Commission may have monies to assist with the easement purchase. Karen stated that she would like to see a breakdown of the cost associated with each part of the process to see where there is an opportunity for the Conservation Commission to assist.

Chair Crosby has gone over the easement contract language with Nancy Mitiguy. He has a call out to NHACC to see if a baseline study is needed, though Nancy already agreed to pay for the study. This would be required for the landowner to take the tax exemption for the easement. Chair Crosby stated that the contract process should be completed around January/February 2022.

New Business

a. Discussion with Town Forester Jon Martin – The Commission discussed the possibility of logging the town forest property on Eastman Hill. Jon explained that there is an abutting landowner that owns part of the access road to the property; Chair Crosby will reach out to the owner about using the access road for the purpose of logging though the owner has not had issues with this in the past. Jon suggested doing two to five acre patch cuts which would include cutting beech trees that have bark disease. Jon explained that beech trees should be managed in the spring before they can spread seeds, though it does take some wildlife habitat away.

Chair Crosby asked if the land could be logged without hurting the hiking trails; Jon responded that it would be difficult to avoid them completely. Ray stated that the large stone wall bordering Steele Hill's property would need to be cleaned up with equipment. Dave asked if the public

could be given a tour of the property to show why it needs to be logged; Jon responded that he did this with the town forest on Dr. True Rd and residents were happy for the information.

Jon explained that the Conservation Commission can put the logging out to bid or instead do a negotiated bid; for a regular bid trees would need to be marked first so that companies know what they are bidding on. Dave asked what the reasons would be to log the property; Jon responded that it would be a balance of healthy forest, wildlife habitat and income. Dave asked if emerald ash borer will be an issue; Jon responded that it's recommended to leave six to eight inch ash but cut larger ash as they are a bigger host for ash borer. The top of big ash trees can fall on recreation trails also.

Members agreed that Jon should do preliminary work for logging on Eastman Hill and that this should be a negotiated bid; Chair Crosby stated that he would like Jon to work with a logger than has experience with recreation trails and maintaining as much wildlife habitat as possible. Karen added that she thinks that the map of the property and its bounds needs to be updated.

Dick Ayers made a motion for Jon Martin to provide a proposal for preliminary logging work on Eastman Hill. Ray Masse seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Jon stated that he can mark trees next spring or fall and being the harvest next winter.

b. NH Association of Conservation Commissions membership – Dick Ayers made a motion to renew the Commission's membership with NHACC for \$250. Chair Crosby seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 11th at 7:00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Audry Barriault