

MINUTES
Sanbornton Conservation Commission

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, June 8th 2023 at 7:00 PM
Meeting Place: Old Town Hall, 19 Meeting House Hill Rd, Sanbornton NH
Present: Dick Ayers, Dave Perry, Chair Brad Crosby, Karen Bordeau

Dick Ayers made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 5/11/23. Chair Crosby seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

a. Land donation discussion with Dave Adams – Resident Dave Adams explained that he would like to gift a parcel of land; he reached out to Don Berry at LRCT about the process. A surveyor has just completed a preliminary survey of the land and it appears to be prime habitat for wildlife migration and birds. The piece has access to Old Range Rd and he does not want to impede access to that. Karen asked if there will be any restrictions on the gift and Dave stated that he would restrict motorized vehicles but allow hiking, snowshoeing, skiing and hunting. Chair Crosby noted that Nancy Mitiguy's easement restricted any commercial activity such as renting campsites for profit and also had restrictions on signage and mining.

Dave Perry asked if the property could be resold if it's a gift, and Chair Crosby explained that a restriction could be put in the deed to prohibit this and recommended asking Don Berry about specific wording.

Chair Crosby noted that the Commission focuses on land acquisition but should be mindful that these parcels need to be monitored and managed. Dave Perry stated that the Trails Committee may have volunteers that could help with this.

Old Business

a. Trail Committee development – Dick explained that he and Dave have put together an outline of the Committee; the first meeting will be Wednesday, June 14th from 7pm-8:15pm at Old Town Hall. Justin Barriault from the snowmobile club will be in attendance also. Dick explained that they will focus on improving the existing Eastman Hill hiking trails and Range Rd first. He added that if volunteers are only available to help for a day or two with trail creation/cleanup that would welcome. Once the meeting information is on the town website Audry will help share it to Facebook.

Chair Crosby noted that Mark Ledgard will host a nature walk through his property for the Rec Dept program this summer as he has in years past and needs volunteers for that event.

b. Newsletter – Dick will work on the newsletter and send a draft to members; topics will include the work on Mitiguy easement trails this past year as well as reminding people about the Eastman Hill hiking trails. He will also recap Earth Day and include a reminder that roadside trash bags are available year-round.

Other Business

a. Donation – The Commission received a \$10,000 donation; members were instructed to put it into whatever fund they feel is best. Karen will look into the rules regarding where donated funds go, and if the money can go into the Land Use Change Tax Fund or if it has to go to the Conservation Fund.

b. Planning Board subdivision setbacks – Karen explained that she has attended Planning Board meetings and reviewed their minutes regarding the Conservation Commission's comments on the required 5% setback location for subdivisions. She stated that she does not feel comfortable commenting on this without walking each property and other members agreed; she added that Planning Board Assistant Steve Laurin sends aerial photos but this does not provide enough information. Karen suggested that the Planning Board require an environmental consultant to walk properties and provide their professional opinion.

c. Membership terms – Membership terms are expiring for Karen and Dick; Audry sent them the volunteer form they will need to fill out to be re-appointed by the BOS.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 13th.

Respectfully submitted,
Audry Barriault