

Sanbornton Conservation Commission

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, August 10th 2023 at 6:45 PM

Meeting Place: Old Town Hall, 19 Meeting House Hill Road, Sanbornton NH

Present: Chair Brad Crosby, Ray Masse, Dick Ayers, Dave Perry, Selectman Bob Lambert (7:15PM)

Guest: Clifford King, Anna Boudreau

TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING- 6:45 PM

- a. **Trail Clean-up Workday** – Ray, Dave, Dick and Eric Keenan were present for the trail clean-up on Sunday, July 30th , and they state it went well. Eric provided excellent chainsaw work for removing downed trees. It was noted that the Virginia Hutton trailhead and the Eastman Hill trailhead have significant erosion and washouts that need to be filled. Discussed hiring a contractor to provide fill such as rocks or gravel and grading the area. Additionally, Taylor Road trail entrance is overgrown with brambles and poison ivy and lacks adequate parking. Ray provided a map of the trails with what has been completed and what tasks still need to be done.
- b. **Erosion Control Task**-Dick motions to authorize hiring someone to provide the appropriate material and labor required to fill and grade the erosion on the trailheads. Cost not to exceed \$2500. Ray seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Crosby will solicit bids.
- c. **Next Trail Clean-Up Workday**- The next clean-up day was agreed upon for Thursday, August 24th at 4pm. Anyone interested in joining should meet at the Eastman Hill Kiosk. Jordan will send out a reminder email to all interested parties with this date and time.
 - i. Clifford asks about the liability of volunteers working on the trails. Ray will talk to the town administration about how Trail Committee members and volunteers will be covered.
- d. **AllTrails Update**- Dave states he has most of the trails mapped via GPS on his phone but that he does not know how to extract the data required. He will coordinate with Ray to upload this information to the mapping tool.
- e. **Trails Subcommittee Formation**- Ray spoke with the Lee Trails Committee chair about the logistics of starting a new committee. She is willing to join everyone on a joint call if desired to discuss the details of Lee's program. Dick made the following MOTION to formalize the Trail Committee:

In accordance with the provisions of NH RSA 36-A:2, I move that the Conservation Commission (Commission) establish a Trails Subcommittee (Subcommittee) comprised of five permanent members and up to five alternate members. The Commission shall appoint all Subcommittee members and alternates. At least one of the permanent Subcommittee members shall also be a Commission member and shall act as a liaison between the two. Initially, the terms of members and alternates shall be for one, two, or three years, so arranged that the terms of approximately one-third of each group will expire each year, and their successors shall be appointed for three years each.

The Subcommittee shall oversee, maintain, and promote hiking or nature trails on Town-owned lands or land with conservation easements having formal trail networks. The Subcommittee should develop and propose plans to expand the trail network, but the Commission shall approve all such plans. The Commission shall preapprove expenditures for trail projects, and funding shall come from the Commission's annual budget or other funds over which the Commission has control.

Chair Brad seconds the motion, and the motion passes unanimously. The number of members and alternates will ultimately be up to the Trail Committee to decide. Ray thinks the Trail Committee does not need permission from the CC for tasks such as basic trail work. The Trail Committee liaison can provide updates at CC meetings. Trail Committee meeting date and time should be decided by the members, TBD.

The Trails subcommittee meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM. Clifford King left the meeting.

REGULAR CONSERVATION COMMISSION BUSINESS- 7:20 PM

Dick made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 07/13/23 CC meeting. Dave seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- a. Motion to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(d), *consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community*, made by Dick,

seconded by Dave. Roll call vote to enter non-public session;

- a. Brad Cosby – yes
- b. Dick Ayers- yes
- c. Ray Masse- yes
- d. Dave Perry – yes
- e. Selectman Bob Lambert- yes

Entered non-public session at 7:23PM. There was a discussion on a potential land conservation easement acquisition – no votes were taken.

Motion to leave the non-public session made by Dick, and seconded by Ray. The vote was unanimous. Public session resumed at 8:12PM.

Motion made to seal the minutes of the non-public session made by Chair Crosby, seconded by Bob. Roll call to seal the minutes;

- f. Brad Crosby- yes
- g. Dick Ayers- yes
- h. Ray Masse – yes
- i. Dave Perry – yes
- j. Selectman Bob Lambert- yes

The motion passed.

- b. **Joint Land Use Board** Annual Meeting– scheduled for September 7th, time still TBD, details will be provided by Steve Laurin.

Old Business

a. Newsletter- Dick is still working on the draft newsletter, with the goal to have it finished by the fall. His focus remains on the new trail committee and increasing interest in the trails. It was again recommended that both the Trail Committee and CC meeting dates and times be included in the newsletter. Dave would like to include his write-up for “Bird of the Month.” Additionally, it can be included that the CC is looking for 2 more alternates.

b. Planning Board Site Plan Input Update- Further discussion about what is requested of the CC and how to handle these requests. Bob Lambert re-iterates that everyone needs to be on the same page to avoid issues down the road. The town does have an engineer that provides technical review for Site Plans, therefore the CC's input is focused on wildlife conservation and minimizing impact. The Solar Farm was brought up, with suggestions to keep openings, such as swales, under the perimeter fence to allow wildlife passage. Bob suggests inviting a rep from the engineering firm to the next CC meeting to present their plans and hear our input.

d. Town Property Boundaries Report Update- to be discussed in more detail at next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 8:45 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 14th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Tedeschi