

Memorial Building

7:00 p.m.

**Note: These minutes are to be considered draft minutes until approved by the Conservation Commission.**

Members Present: Bruce Allen, Marla Binzel, Emily Cleaveland, Tim Fraser, Ken Jacques, Daphne Klein, George McCusker and alternate Patricia Allen-Shaw. Dan Saulnier was also present.

Bruce Allen opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**Minutes:** The minutes of 12/5/19 were approved as written.

**Town Lots:**

Kinsley Lot – Tim indicated that he and Peter have not communicated about the wet area he had questions about. It was decided to table the item until the spring. Tim and Daphne have both been out to the Loop trail and report it is in good order

Bruce was asked for his recommendations regarding potential timber harvests on town lots. Bruce indicated that the Fogg lot (approx. 50 acres) has mature spruce, and the end of the Knowlton lot that was not cut last time has about 20-30 acres of hardwood. That would be the best target for the next timber harvest in his estimation. The Arch and Society lots may have sufficient mature timber for a harvest, but access and terrain will be difficult. He also indicated that the back of the Knowlton lot needs to have the blaze marks repainted and they are difficult to find.

**2020 Projects and Goals:**

An initial brainstorming session about the upcoming year yielded the following suggestions:

Additional trail work and maps for the Kinsley and Brooks lots.

Potentially hosting a speaker on the topic of invasive plants, possibly in coordination with the Garden Club

Initiating steps for the next timber harvest on Commission managed land

Continue to clean up of Collins Park, including assessing the trash that has been dumped into the old mill site and how best to remove the oak that has come down in the center of the property.

Organize a public hike, similar to the ones done for the 250<sup>th</sup>

Begin developing activities to engage children in nature.

**Misc. Communications and Other Business:**

The root wrench continues to be a very popular item. George suggested the Commission might want to purchase a second wrench. It was decided to wait until next fall and see if the popularity has waned.

Bruce Allen announced that he and his wife would be resigning their positions on the Commission because they are selling their house. The remaining Commission members want to thank Bruce and Patricia for their many years of dedicated service on the Commission. Both Bruce and Patricia brought specialized technical knowledge to the Commission that cannot be replaced. Bruce's training in Ecology, Wetlands and Forestry was a perfect match for his role on the Commission and will be sorely missed. Patricia's research as an aquatic toxicologist enabled her to provide a unique perspective to water quality issues. Both Bruce and Patricia were generous with their time and participated in most every Commission event. Many

residents have native shrubs and trees in their yards that started as seedlings that the Allens potted up from the State Nursery and gave away at the Commission's Old Home Day booth.

As a result of Bruce's departure, the following replacement elections were held:

Chair – Marla Binzel, nominated by Daphne, seconded by Emily (replacing Bruce)

Vice Chair – Tim Fraser, nominated by Daphne and seconded by George (replacing Marla)

Secretary – Daphne Klein, nominated by Marla and seconded by Emily (replacing Marla)

A motion was made by Daphne and seconded by Ken to nominate Dan Saulnier to fill the open full position on the Commission created by the departure of Bruce. The motion passed unanimously and Marla will write a memo to the Selectmen requesting that they make this appointment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Submitted by Marla Binzel

**Action Items:**

**Marla will send a memo requesting that Dan Saulnier be appointed to the Commission. She will also check with Janet Robertson about a question that arose about the conversion of draft to official minutes.**