

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

Members present: Marla Binzel, Emily Cleaveland, Tim Fraser, Dan Saulnier, Ken Jacques, Daphne Klein

Marla opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes: Ken made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/2/20. Tim seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Town Lots: Marla began by stating that although we have discussed setting up a schedule for timber harvests on the forested town lots on different occasions, we have not put any plans in writing. She would like the CC to clarify what needs to be done and then set up a timeline for proceeding.

- Ken said that he thinks there is a good amount of timber on the adjacent Royal Arch and Society lots ready to be harvested, but that access to those lots would need to be worked out. He said that if it is determined that a timber harvest is warranted, he would be willing to contact the Dutchman Pond Association to discuss the issues involved. He also suggested that if timber is going to be harvested on the town lots in the northeast corner of the town, then it would make sense to have a survey done of all those lots to determine how to proceed. He noted that at last month's meeting, Bruce had said that he thought there was about 20-30 acres of hardwood on the Knowlton lot that was ready to be cut, but Ken thinks that this would be more accurately described as mixed growth. Ken volunteered to contact Brooks Weathers to see if he would be available to do a timber survey of the town lots in question.

Outreach:

- Dan spoke about the Weatherize Kearsarge program that is available to Springfield residents. This is a program that helps home owners save money on heating bills and make their homes more energy efficient by weatherizing their homes. Information about the program can be found on the Vital Communities website. Marla will post a link to this program on the CC's page on the town website. <https://vitalcommunities.org/energy/weatherize/kearsarge/>
- Marla asked for ideas for a hike that CC members could lead for the public. Tim said he is making progress on the trail in the Kinsley lot that will connect to the Kinsley loop trail and he should definitely have it completed by this summer. There was general agreement to lead a hike in the Kinsley lot in summer or early fall showcasing these two trails. Details will be worked out later.

Zoning/Planning/Selectmen Reports: Dan reported that a task force from the Planning Board has been studying what other towns have in the way of noise ordinances. They will be bringing their ideas to the next PB meeting, and there will also be public meetings for more discussion.

Communications and Miscellaneous:

- The Eastman Charitable Foundation has offered to donate a tree to the town. Marla contacted the Garden Club to ask for their ideas, and they suggested a fir tree that would at the edge of the rec field. The ECF also asked for ideas for speakers/topics for the educational forum that they host every fall. Emily suggested invasive species. Marla will relay that suggestion.
- Trails for People and Wildlife: ASLPT and NH Fish and Game are co-hosting a workshop on how to site trails to minimize disruption to wildlife habitat on March 25th in New London. Marla has signed up. Tim said he would also be interested in going. For more information contact: kheath@ausbonsargent.org

- The UNH Extension Coverts Project Workshop will be held May 13-16 in Greenfield, NH. This is a program for individuals interested in wildlife conservation and forest stewardship. Applications are due March 1st. Daphne said she attended this program some years ago and recommended it highly. For more information: <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/how-become-nh-coverts-volunteer>
- NHDES has enacted some new wetlands regulations that went into effect in December, 2019. Marla will send a link to a PowerPoint presentation that outlines the role of conservation commissions in the Wetland Permit Process. She would like everyone to review the information in the presentation and come prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.
- <http://www.nhacc.org/files/6215/7315/4412/NHACC-CCs-role-in-permit-process-final.pptx.pdf>
- ASLPT is looking for hike ideas. Please let Marla know if you think of any.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Submitted by: Daphne Klein, Secretary

DRAFT