

Conservation Commission
Memorial Building

October 1, 2020
7:00 p.m.

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

Members present: Marla Binzel, George McCusker, Ken Jacques, Emily Cleaveland, Tim Fraser
Members present via phone: Daphne Klein

Marla opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes: Tim pointed out an error in the September minutes. The sentence that reads: “*Marla reported that she and Tim went to a UNH Cooperative Extension forestry workshop in Grafton*” should read, “*Marla reported that she and Dan went*” Emily made a motion to approve the minutes of 9/3/20 as amended. Tim seconded. The minutes of 9/3/20 were approved as corrected.

Town Lots:

- Marla reviewed the “Landowner Goals and Objectives” document that she and Dan were given at the UNH Cooperative Extension forestry workshop that they went to. This document is geared for landowners who are considering harvesting timber on their land to help them prioritize their objectives by looking at what they most value about their land and ranking what is important and what isn’t. Although it’s designed for private landowners, there are some parts that are relevant for the CC to consider when they are considering timber harvests on town lots. Marla said she would put a copy of the document on the CC website in the Resources section.
- Daphne will contact Dan to arrange a date to finish refreshing the blazes that mark the boundaries of the lots in the northeast corner of town in preparation for an evaluation of these lots for a potential timber harvest.
- Emily gave an update of the most recent work session in Collins Park on 9/19. They had no trouble filling the old oil tank with rusted metal, and in fact will probably be able to fill it many times over in future sessions. Marla left a message for Peter Abair that the tank is full. The highlight of the session was finding the flattened remains of a car with a 1945 license plate. Marla added that the Garden Club is still hoping to be able to provide a picnic table for the area.
- Tim has taken down a lot of trees in the Kinsley Lot on the trail that will connect to the Kinsley Loop, but doesn’t have the time right now to actually connect the two trails. Marla told him to let the CC know when some time opens up for him and CC members who are available will join him. Tim thought possibly by late October he’ll be able to work on it some more.

Wetlands:

- Marla reported that the work on the property on Baptist Pond, for which the CC approved an expedited Wetlands Permit at the July meeting, hasn’t begun yet, as the owners are still waiting for one more permit from NH DES.
- Ken brought up a concern related to the work that Eversource is doing along the power lines on Route 114 near Oak Hill. Eversource is replacing poles between Sunapee and Andover to put in high transmission lines, and to do that, they have had to put in quite a substantial road along the power lines. Eversource has put in wooden “rafts” to protect the wetlands, but the concern is that the road could serve as a conduit for vehicles such as ATVs and jeeps to access sensitive areas in that area, including in the Gile State Forest, and when Eversource has finished the work and removes the wooden rafts, the wetlands would be very vulnerable.

Zoning, Planning, Selectmen Reports:

- George reviewed some of the issues that have been discussed at the Planning Board and Select Board meetings. See the minutes on the town website for more details.

Communications and Miscellaneous:

- Marla reminded people know that the NHAAC annual meeting on 11/7 is virtual this year. It's only half a day, which allows people to attend one or two morning sessions. She strongly encouraged all new members to attend the session *Fundamentals of Conservation Commissions*. To register go to the website: <http://www.nhacc.org/> and click on "pay by check." Then email Janet at the town office (and please cc: Marla) and let Janet know that you want to register for this online meeting and she will take care of the payment.
- Marla let the CC know that, after five years, Dale Milne has stepped down as the representative from Springfield to the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust's Outreach Committee, and that she (Marla) has agreed to be the new representative from Springfield.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Submitted by: Daphne Klein, Secretary

ACTION ITEMS:

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- **Daphne will contact Dan to arrange a date to finish refreshing the boundary blazes of the town lots in the northeast corner of town.**
- **Tim will let the CC know when he is available to work on the Kinsley lot.**