

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

Members present: Tim Fraser, Emily Cleaveland, Ken Jaques

Alternate member present: Cynthia Bruss, Daphne Klein

Tim requested that Cynthia and Daphne step up to active status to fill out the board

Visitors present: Hilda Lyon, Josh McGraw, Martin Bean

September Minutes: Ken moved to approve the September 7th minutes as entered, Cynthia 2nded. Unanimous approval. 2 abstentions.

Baptist Pond invasive weed: - Hilda Lyon, of the Baptist Pond Protective Association
Curly-leaf pond weed, a Eur-Asian water weed was discovered in Baptist Pond. Unusual, as the pond has no public access. A DES state biologist was brought in and the state mapped the pond. Two rounds of divers pulling roots up from the bottom was the first step, done this summer. Next step is a state paid herbicide treatment. Subsequent treatments (2024) are going to be the responsibility of local residents. Estimate of herbicide treatment is \$35,000.
Other ponds in Springfield, and surrounding area; especially Sunapee, which Baptist Pond feeds into – despite a blockage, to keep just such disasters from spreading - should be on the lookout.

Fish&Game purchase: - Josh McGraw Springfield resident and supporter of the project
Fish&Game is trying to buy Aaron's Ledge Tract (see map encl.) for \$920,000. Government funds can cover 75%, if the remaining 25% can be raised. Donors have covered the remaining 25%, but the project keeps hitting snags. Currently, the Executive Council at the State Level needs to approve the purchase, in order to close on the property in March 2024. Josh is asking Springfield boards to consider writing letters to admin. at the Executive Council to encourage the unobstructed passing of this endeavor.
Cynthia moved to write a letter of support to be sent via email to the appropriate people to encourage the project which:

- Coincides with the Conservation Commission tenets

- Coincides with the Master Plan

- Presents as an excellent service to wildlife

Emily 2nded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Cynthia will compose a draft to be reviewed by members.

Town Lots:

Kinsley Lot bridge completed!! In summary: Ken donated the lumber, Brooks brought the lumber and helped Tim and family (+dog) with building of the bridge. Tim is going to shore up before the October hike.

Discussion took place about the date of the Kinsley Lot Loop hike. October 21st 10:00am was settled on, with rain date of October 22 at 2:00pm. Participants in the hike would meet at the cemetery.

Daphne moved to authorize the construction of a wooden sign for the entrance of Kinsley Loop Trail.

Ken 2nded. Unanimous approval.

Outreach:

Collins park clean up went well. Cleaveland family, Jeff Lewis and son cleared fallen debris, pulled out invasives, and got rid of some dumped trash, including one rather ancient and quite long exhaust pipe. The barrel was not filled, but can stick around for now; there's more potential trash to fill it.

The Rec Dept. has asked if they can use Collins Park for the non-spooky Halloween walk. The timing is excellent, as this year's clean up focused on clearing a couple of paths. The CC does not have jurisdiction to grant a request concerning Collins Park, but no one had any objections to the idea.

All but two of the 50 conservation plants found homes thanks to the Springfield Facebook page. These last two (one dogwood, one fir) will either be claimed, or be planted at Collins Park.

- Propose new CC board member, Martin Bean

Ken moved to suggest Martin Bean to the selectboard as a new member of the Conservation Commission
Cynthia 2nded. Unanimous approval.

Other:

State put timber cut out on Gile; scheduled to be cut this winter.

Annual Osborne Sargent meeting on October 25th – Cythia agreed to go as CC representative.

Planning Board:

Revamping the driveway permit process

Not started on master plan yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by: Emily Cleaveland, secretary.