

Memorial Building

7:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Marla Binzel, Ken Jacques, Bob Ruel, Cynthia Bruss (alternate) Jeremy Johnston (alternate). Also present: George McCusker (BOS)

Bob Ruel opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of 1/7/16 were approved as written. Jeremy Johnston was sworn in as an alternate member of the Commission.

Wetlands/Shorelands Protection:

·The public hearing for the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance has been held, and the amendments will be put to the voters on the town ballot in March.

Town Lots:

· Kinsley lot update – Bob Ruel passed along information on the progress of the timber cut on the Kinsley lot. Approximately 75,000 board feet have been harvested and it is anticipated that another 60 – 70 thousand board feet will be cut. Rot has been found in a fair amount of the material harvested to date, so not all harvested timber will be saleable.

·Cynthia Bruss updated the Commission on the status of the Knowlton lot. The lot (~153 acres) is now owned by the town. There was agreement amongst the members of the Commission that this lot would be a valuable addition to the land already conserved by the town, considering its proximity to previously conserved lands, and its location in an area identified by the state as highest ranked wildlife habitat. A motion was unanimously approved to have Commission Chair Bruce Allen draft a letter from the Commission to the Board of Selectmen, encouraging the BOS to keep this lot as reserved town property, and to manage it as conservation land.

Outreach:

· there has been no further activity by the KRHS student on the project to build a trail on the Brooks lot.

· a motion was approved to authorize Daphne Klein to utilize funds from the Commission's budget to advertise the upcoming public hike on the Brooks lot.

·Cynthia reported that she had contacted Chris Martin about speaking at a Commission sponsored presentation on eagles. Chris indicated that he normally does public presentations in the fall. The Commission discussed that they have previously had better participation at talks given in the spring, compared to the fall. Cynthia will check back with Chris, and also look into the availability of a speaker

from VINS (VT Institute of Natural Resources). Another suggestion was to inquire about the possibility of inviting Rick Van der Poll (wetlands scientist) to give a presentation about the town lots, e.g. "This is your land".

Zoning, Planning, Selectman report

- Zoning and Planning Boards have been dealing with a request for a zoning exception by a resident of Hogg Hill. The Sunapee Camp has been before both boards with a request for some upgrades to the camp to meet state standards for safety. The town budget is close to being finalized (see BOS minutes for additional details).

Action Items:

- **Bruce will send a letter to the BOS expressing the Commission's recommendation that the Knowlton lot be held by the town and maintained as conservation land.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by Marla Binzel