

Conservation Commission  
Memorial Building

January 7, 2016  
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, Ken Jacques, Daphne Klein, Bob Ruel, Cynthia Bruss (alternate), Patricia Allen-Shaw (alternate). Also present: George McCusker

Bruce Allen opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

**Minutes:** The minutes of 12/03/15 were approved as written.

**Membership and Officers:** It was reported that Daphne Klein has been reappointed to the Commission for a 3 year term.

The following slate of candidates was voted into office:

Bruce Allen	Chair
Bob Ruel	Vice-chair
Ken Jacques	Treasurer
Marla Binzel	Secretary

**Wetlands/Shorelands Protection:** Bob Ruel reported that DES is collecting ice in/out dates for bodies of water in the state and he is providing the data for Baptist Pond.

**Town Lots:** Bruce Allen provided an update on the timber harvest on the Kinsley lot. Progress has been slowed due to the warm weather. They have begun cutting trees, but are waiting for the ground to freeze before the logs are moved off of the lot.

**Outreach:**

- Daphne Klein reported that there hasn't been any further activity by the KRHS student who is working on building a trail on the Brooks lot for her senior project.
- Daphne suggested that the Commission sponsor a snowshoe hike up to the Brooks lot from Old Grafton Rd. There was discussion about advertising the activity in the Intertown and Kearsarge Shopper. The Commission will follow up during their February meeting to discuss potential dates, etc.
- The Commission agreed that they would like to sponsor an indoor activity as well, such as the presentations that have been arranged in previous years. Discussion followed regarding potential topics and speakers. It was agreed that Cynthia Bruss would contact Chris Martin of the Audubon Society to see if he would be available to make a presentation about eagles.

- Bob Ruel suggested that a new feature be created on the Commission's web site entitled "Special Places". This would provide a location to bring attention to some of the natural beauty in Springfield, as well as showcase some of the town lots. Bob requested that people provide the images to him on a thumb drive rather than email due to issues regarding resolution and image size.

**Zoning, Planning, Selectman:** George McCusker reported that a new Wi-Fi system is being installed in the library and will be available for use in the town hall meeting room. The BOS are discussing a new part-time zoning compliance position that would potentially be shared with other towns. This person would be another part of the coarse filter associated with the Wetlands Zoning Ordinance. There will be a public hearing on the wetlands buffer that is described in the zoning ordinance on January 21, 2016 in the Protectworth room.

**Communications and misc.:**

- There will be a presentation about the Emerald Ash Borer on Thursday Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Wilmot Community Association's Red Barn.
- The Commission received notification that DES has found Mr. Sydney Pratt to be in violation of the Shoreland Protection Act.

**Goals for 2016:** The Commission discussed plans and goals for the upcoming year. These include:

- Examine the Fogg town lot to consider a possible future timber sale
- Develop a management plan for the Brooks lot and in particular, look at wild life usage
- Add to and improve the Commission's web site
- Continue development of a walking trail on the Brooks lot
- Sponsor a public presentation – possibly on eagles (see above)
- Sponsor one or more walks

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by Marla Binzel