

**Conservation Commission
Memorial Building**

**March 4th, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

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

Members present: Marla Binzel, Emily Cleaveland, Dan Saulnier, Ken Jacques, George Mccusker
Members present via zoom: Tim Fraser, Daphne Klein (alt.)
Guests present: Cynthia Bruss
Guests via zoom: Gene Hayes, Sue-Ann Kasanaugh

Marla opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes: Ken suggested a correction to the February minutes; Stephen Baker should be Barker. Dan noted that notes about a letter from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) was left off, and offered to amend. Dan made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of 02/04/2021. Ken seconded. The minutes of 02/04/2021 were approved with the correction.

Town Lots:

- Cynthia Bruss asked about management on Brooks lot. It had been patch cut in her time with an eye toward leaving oaks standing to re-seed. She and Daphne planned to walk the lot to assess, and possibly trim the non-oak, to thin unwanted birch, etc. She is interested in going once the snow recedes. Dan expressed interest in joining.
- Ken is still planning the walkabout with Brooks Weathers to assess the timber on the town lots in the NE corner of Springfield. Brooks commented on the large pines he saw at the back of Kinsley Lot that he observed while snowmobiling. Cynthia expressed concern about the giant hemlocks, and some oak on the lot, emphasizing that in a previous harvest they left some areas uncut intentionally, to support these. There was some uncertainty, however, whether the large pines Brooks had seen were in that preserved area. Tim chimed in with agreement that he had seen pines in his endeavors on the lot which were aging, and needed a cut.

Natural Resource Inventory:

- Marla wanted to schedule a meeting to consider updating Springfield's Natural Resource Inventory Map.

The time and date was set for **Monday March 8th at 7:30pm**

Wetlands:

- Cynthia had concerns with reports of a new culvert going in under George Hill Rd. where Gove Brook crosses. She wanted to know if the CC was going to have a position about it being a free flowing or a perched culvert. Ken expressed that most likely the culvert will NOT be replaced, but repaired. Mike Hanson, who has expertise in bridge repair is proposing a carefully engineered, less intrusive, less costly repair. Where the culvert is not being replaced, it was generally agreed upon that it is not an issue the CC needs to weigh in on.

Zoning, Planning, Selectmen Reports:

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

Communications and Miscellaneous:

- Various organizations have sent requests for donations. The CC not being an organization with a budget for charity, these were set aside.
- Marla noted publications she received, if any were interested in the Sullivan County District Report, or The Beacon newsletter. She also received the latest “Handbook for NH’s Municipal Conservation Commissions,” which she would like each member to review, so she’s started it circulating among members.
- Ken shared the website for the Eastman Charitable Foundation. Stephen Barker is a resident of Springfield who just became a board member there, provided info about their grant opportunities focused around education, outdoor recreation, and environmental issues. Prior grant projects are listed in their Grant History, which can be found by going to ECFNH.org, clicking on “Grants”, and then “Grant History”. The endeavors they have previously supported might offer insight on what Springfield might consider asking for.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Submitted by: Emily Cleaveland, Secretary

ACTION ITEMS:

- Members will meet on Monday, March 8th at 7:30pm in the Memorial Building to consider Springfield’s Natural Resource Inventory Map
- Ken will continue to secure a time for the walkabout with Brooks Weathers