

DRAFT
Subject to Review, Correction and Approval

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: July 8, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brett St. Clair, Drew Groves, Darlene Jarvis, George Holt, Ron Jarvis, Stan Sowle, Margaret Watkins

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Also present: Chanti Labrecque, Bob Martel, Lee Martel,

MINUTES: June's minutes were accepted

Public Hearing

Tree removal and trimming along the Town's scenic roads

Cory Keeffe, a utility arborist for Eversource, attended the hearing to answer any questions residents had regarding trimming and tree removal along Dunbarton's scenic roads. Asplundh has been contracted by Eversource to do the actual work which is expected to begin in the fall. Currently any large tree that poses a threat to an Eversource line is marked for removal with blue and white tape. With these "hazardous" trees well marked, none of the residents present had a question for Mr. Keeffe. Drew Groves made a motion to allow Eversource and the company it has contracted with (Asplundh) to trim and remove trees along the Town's scenic roads. The motion passed (7-0).

OLD BUSINESS:

Kimball Pond Conservation Area (KPCA)

Artifact Policy

Brett St. Clair explained that he had reviewed the easement on the KPCA in response to Lee Martel's request, on behalf of the Dunbarton Historical Awareness Committee, to dig for artifacts on the Nassikas homestead. The easement requires that a detailed archeological investigation plan be drawn up and approved by both the easement holder and the state archeologist of the NH Division of Historical Resources prior to any excavation on the property. Lee Martel reiterated his withdrawal of the request.

Clear cut

Stan Sowle reported that a second herbicide application should be applied within days. Stan suggested that the Commission plan to mow the area annually, starting next year, in order to control the bittersweet. He and Jeff Crosby will install a gate at the road access. Brett nominated Stan as "Conservation Commission Member of the Month" for both June and July in light of his work associated with the clear cut and with National Grid. National Grid recently completed extensive remedial work to control erosion along the power line where it intersects Tenney Hill Road. The erosion issue was the direct result of illegal ATV use and prompted National Grid to gate the access to keep ATVs out.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kimball Pond Conservation Area (KPCA)

Annual monitoring report by Conservation Land Stewardship Program

This year Jocelyn Duffy, the stewardship specialist who replaced Amanda Hollenbeck, monitored the KPCA. Ms. Duffy chose to walk the area by herself in light of the pandemic. In her report several issues were mentioned and photographed. Brett volunteered to remove the 3 tires photographed in the cellar hole on Whipple Road. Stan suggested that the Commission clean up the dump site Ms. Duffy discovered (south side of Kimball Pond Road near the Nassikas homestead). The “bridge” which she photographed and labeled a “precarious crossing structure” was not constructed by the Commission.

Jocelyn Duffy was unable to complete the “loop” in the loop trail. The resident beavers have repurposed the trail’s foot bridge which was installed by Commission member, Drew Groves. Currently the “bridge” is an integral part of a beaver dam which has raised the level of the water north of it. A discussion followed regarding whether or not to reconnect the sections of the loop trail and how that might best be accomplished.

Jocelyn also mentioned that she could not locate the Whipple Road access. Brett stated that the public access is across a right of way (ROW) at the north end of Whipple Road where it meets Robert Rogers and County Road. A few years ago the ROW was bounded on each side by a stone wall. However, the landowner on the east side of County Road has removed the stone wall along his boundary line which has made the ROW less obvious.

Ms. Duffy’s report included a reminder that an updated stewardship plan will need to be submitted next year and approved by the Division of Natural and Cultural Resources. Brett reminded members that the Commission currently does not have a forester and will need to hire one in the near future.

Bela Brook Conservation Area (BBCA)

Survey needed

Brett suggested that the Commission hire a surveyor to survey and blaze the Bela Brook Conservation Area. George Holt offered to write a request for a proposal for the boundary survey. Stan suggested that Commission members review the proposal prior to it being sent out to surveyors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Received from Donna White, Office Administrator for Building, Planning, and Zoning – Application for a variance which will come before the Zoning Board of Adjustment on 7/13/20. The landowner wishes to obtain a variance in order to raze a 1 story structure and replace it with a 2 1/2 story single family residence on lot K1-03-04 on Gorham Pond (George Holt expects to attend the ZBA’s meeting)

NEXT MEETING: September 9, 2020, 6:00 PM (Commission will not meet in August)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Darlene M. Jarvis