

DRAFT
Subject to Review, Correction and Approval

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: June 10, 2020

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Also Present: Sergeant Chris Remillard, Lee Martel

MINUTES: The minutes from March were accepted

OLD BUSINESS:

Trial policy

At the Commission's last meeting two minor changes to the trail policy were suggested. With the changes having been made by Margaret Watkins, Brett St. Clair made a motion that the Commission accept the policy as drafted. Ron Jarvis moved the motion which was seconded by Stan Sowle. The motion passed (7-0).

Kimball Pond Conservation Area/clear cut area

Invasive Species Control

Stan Sowle discussed the second application of herbicide spraying due to be done in July or August. Connor Tilton has been contracted to apply the herbicide at a cost not to exceed \$2200. The motion to approve the written contract and have the spraying done was moved by Margaret Watkins and seconded by George Holt. The motion passed (7-0).

Access to clear cut

Stan Sowle stated that he and Jeff Crosby will work to block the access to the clear cut across from the former Nassikas homestead. Jeff has agreed to install the gate posts. Stan will supply the gate hardware and look into getting a padlock for it.

Bela Brook Conservation Area trails

George Holt expressed some interest in exploring the area to the west of Bela Brook. Stan Sowle warned against further habitat fragmentation. Brett St. Clair suggested that any potential trail route should also be walked in winter. Margaret Watkins stated that there are now many miles of trails in

town that the Commission is responsible for. Ultimately no trails will now be established before considering their location in light of the guidelines set forth in the newly adopted trail policy.

Scenic Roads

Brett reminded the Commission that we agreed to draft a set of standards for scenic road improvements and should do so later this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kimball Pond Conservation Area (KPCA)

Discussion of recent violations with Dunbarton Police Department's Sergeant Remillard

Sergeant Remillard provided members with a handout outlining the problems the department has observed in the area and how it has responded to various kinds of violations. He referred to Kimball Pond as the "hot spot" when compared to the town's other conservation properties and stated that the department patrols or drives through the area at least once a day.

Brett St. Clair thanked Sergeant Remillard for the department's efforts. He stressed the Commission's zero tolerance regarding camping in the area. Brett stated that the Conservation Commission has a history of responding to issues and has repeatedly removed trash, painted over graffiti, etc. Brett requested that the police notify the Commission regarding any issue as soon as possible. Sergeant Remillard agreed to do so and said he would be happy to act as a liaison between the department and the Commission.

Artifact dig request (on former Nassikas homestead)

Lee Martel met with the Commission regarding the request he and Donna Dunn made a few weeks ago. Lee stated that he didn't care to pursue the Commission's permission after reading the conceptual draft of the Artifact Exploration Policy provided by Brett. Brett mentioned that the Commission had recently denied a similar request to dig from a resident of a nearby town. Margaret Watkins reminded members that the easement on the Kimball Pond property would have to allow for digging/removal of artifacts. Ultimately, numerous questions regarding ownership, oversight, etc. would need to be answered before a request of this sort could be approved.

Trail usage

Brett, Margaret Watkins and Drew Groves commented on the noticeable increase in the number of people and families using the trail systems in town as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tree removal on scenic roads

Asplundh has been contracted by Eversource to cut the trees deemed "hazardous" along the town's scenic roads. The trees to be removed are marked with blue and white tape. A public hearing is required and will be noticed and held in conjunction with the Conservation Commission's July meeting.

NEXT MEETING: July 8, 2020

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Darlene M. Jarvis