CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: December 11, 2019

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

MINUTES: November’s minutes were accepted

OLD BUSINESS:

**Kimball Pond Conservation Area**

*Invasive species control*

Stan Sowle stated that he checked out the clear cut area that was sprayed last summer and said the herbicide has knocked down the bittersweet. At Brett St. Clair’s request, Stan agreed to contact Meadowsend Consulting regarding the follow up spraying to be done this year. Connor Tilton was unable to cut and paint the largest of the bittersweet vines because the area was so overgrown. Those plants should be dealt with this summer, at no charge, since that work has been paid for. Brett suggested that Meadowsend Consulting provide the Commission with a contract for this summer’s spraying.

**Guinea Road upgrade**

Brett explained that on November 19th he walked Guinea Road with Selectman Dave Nault and John Neville. Mr. Neville had been contacted by Mr. Crooker in regards to upgrading the road. Brett said the trees which need to be removed from along the road were clearly marked. In response to the location of the hammerhead turnaround Brett said he suggested that it be constructed so as to not impact a group of large trees and an old foundation. Brett also told Dave and John Neville that he favored leaving the tree stumps in the ground so as to not disturb nearby trees and existing stonewalls.

**Koerber project**

Margaret Watkins confirmed that the Land and Community Heritage Program has announced that Five Rivers Conservation Trust will receive a grant of $100,000 for the purchase of the Koerber easement. Forty five thousand still needs to be raised by Five Rivers.
NEW BUSINESS:

Bela Brook Conservation Area/trail

Matt Hunter has installed some flagging from a public access point in Overlook Estates to a point on a trail in Bela Brook. Brett suggested that Commission members meet and walk the potential trail route sometime in January.

Margaret Watkins voiced some concerns regarding multiple access points from Overlook into Bela. Stan Sowle mentioned the impact trails have on wildlife. Brett suggested that Commission members consider drafting a trail policy in the near future.

Workshop on Plastics/legislation

Margaret Watkins provided the Commission with handouts from a workshop that she attended which was led by Judith Spang. Ms. Spang is working to have legislation passed which will limit the use of plastics, especially plastic bags. After some discussion, members present agreed that Margaret should ask Woody Bowne, supervisor of the Transfer Station, to attend the next Commission meeting.

NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2020, 7:30PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Darlene M. Jarvis