

Hartland Conservation Commission

Minutes: 13-Sept-2017

Next Meeting: 11-October-2017

Attending: Rob Anderegg, Chris Collier, Guy Crosby, John Dumas, Dean Greenberg, Knox Johnson, Cordie Merritt, Zach Ralph, and Jennifer Waite

Guests: Nicki Buck (Hartland School Board) and Dave Ormiston (Town Manager)

Topics Discussed:

1. Rob opened the meeting with a quick round of introductions then opened the floor to Nicki Buck representing the Hartland School Board (HES). Nicki assured us of the school's continued interest in using the 17 Acre Wood as a teaching asset. Presently kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades utilize the area for all or part of a day each week. Christine Bourne, Principal at the school, walked part of the area with Rob and Dean earlier. She also expressed total support for this activity. Making a trail into the wood ADA acceptable continues to be one of their goals. Dean had sent her maps of the area and Rob had forwarded Josh Ryan's proposal for a proper survey and cost estimates of such a trail. She will take this information back to the School Board and see if they are willing to help with the \$3,750 cost of this survey. Christine and Nicki have been invited to attend our October meeting to continue this discussion. Any request for grants toward building a trail will need a comprehensive survey of the pathway and surroundings. Josh's company, Timber and Stone, has a very sound reputation for constructing excellent trails that would enhance any grant request. Currently access is via a trail leading directly from school property. A previous assessment by Bob White suggested using a different access point to the parcel. Access from Martinsville Road would decrease the security of the area. Nicki said a video had been made of the use of the parcel last year. As far as known this video has not been released but the school hopes to use it to demonstrate to other schools what HES is doing and encourage such activities in other locations. Rob suggested a subcommittee composed of representatives from HCC and the school board to work toward a common goal; Jennie Waite, Chris Collier, Knox Johnson and Guy Crosby offered to participate in such an undertaking.

2. The new Town Manager Dave Ormiston presented a little of his background in Natural Resources. Rob outlined some of our ongoing activities: water testing, the CTF, public outreach, site inventories and management plans. Regarding water testing, the frequent high E.coli reading behind the Tessier home is still being looked at. Rob spoke of using optical brighteners to distinguish human and animal generated E. coli. John thought Endyne could do such an assessment. Dave said the State has introduced new rules regarding road runoff but they are extremely unclear. He will attempt clarification. He felt some existing town/state rules about driveway intersections with roads, and culverts have not been actively pursued. He feels most property owners do not know their responsibility when putting in or maintaining a driveway. Activity regarding the encroachment by Twin States Utilities on the 17 Acre Wood property is a continuing negotiation.

3. Two Rivers has received a grant from High Meadows to disseminate information about maintaining and building buffers around/along waterways. Rob played a role in the awarding of this grant. We may be able to utilize some of their data.

4. Guy gave an update on the Meacham erosion issue. All agencies seem to be "kicking the can" and it may be that a suit has to be filed to get any kind of action. Stay tuned. Rob has asked Jay Boeri to offer a walk around Sumner's Falls on 8-October. It was suggested that the Historical Society also be invited. Public invited?

5. Rob and Dean walked the Summarsell parcel with Jason Berard from UVLT. He was checking on easement compliance. On Saturday September 16 8:30 we will offer a walk on the parcel as part of our ongoing flora and fauna inventory of the parcel.

Submitted by Dean Greenberg