



**Mason
Conservation
Commission
Minutes – D R A F T**

May 13, 2015
7:00 pm to 10:15 pm

In Attendance

- Barbara DeVore
- Bob Dillberger
- Anna Faiello
- Liz Fletcher
- Bob Larochele
- Ann Moser
- Lundy Lewis
- Rosanna ?

Voted unanimously to accept April minutes.

Voted to pay Fieldstone Land Consulting \$318.82 from the Conservation General Fund as per their latest invoice for additional planning work on the Mason Quarry parking area. That makes a total payment so far of \$5,188.52.

Barbara moved we transfer \$6,000 from the Old Ashby Rd. Fund to the Land Protection Fund in anticipation of our upcoming bond payment for the Mitchell Brook property.

Discussed plans for preparing a draft easement for the Quarry parking lot on E-31. We will prepare a proposed wording that includes the owner's conditions. Agreed to have a complete draft before passing it on to the landowners for review and comment.

Barbara reports that the prison system is once again making signs after a bit of a hiatus. She'll be following up with them about producing our quarry ordinance signs.

Paula Bellemore at LCHIP requests a Current Conditions Report for the Fifield Tree Farm denoting areas at risk from NED, and marking boundaries and areas around the farmstead and cottage. Also need to document changes made to support forestry (such as using locally dug gravel to create a log landing). Decided it's best to do this in Fall when ticks and leaves are gone. Liz with confirm with Paula that it's OK to wait until then.

Met with Dave Baker to extend the hay lease agreement. Dave estimates 4-5 acres of hay field (about 300 bales worth) were damaged by last year's view-preservation logging operation. Dave has restored some of it. Dave reminded us of a "mystery plant" growing in the field. Bob D. will follow up with Dave to identify the plant (tentatively identified as an uncommon native fruit tree). Agreed to reduce this year's lease payment proportional to the acreage lost. Lost 5 acres at \$30/acre reducing Dave's payment this year to \$450. We voted to pay Dave Baker \$600 as usual, money to come from the Conservation General Fund. Going forward, it will cost too much to reclaim the 5 acres so we need to renegotiate the lease terms to account for the reduced acreage.

Discussed having a CC member volunteer as a member of the Forestry Committee. However, Bob D's research into relevant RSAs (III-31:110-114) suggests the Town can't form a Forestry Committee without first designating a Town Forest, something Mason does not currently have. Further investigation is warranted.

Liz reported on "rediscovering" earlier advice from Si Little about leasing town-owned conservation land. For future reference, any lease on the Potter lands that involves a change of use will require court approval.

Barbara presented information about a potential source of private funding for rail trail maintenance. We need to get an accurate estimate for the work. Need to follow up with Amos White on this. However, further discussion suggests our current quarry-related projects might be a better place to put the money. Barbara will convey this information to the potential donor.