



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes – D R A F T

June 12, 2019

7:00 pm to 11:25 pm

In Attendance

- Barbara DeVore
- Bob Dillberger
- Anna Faiello
- Liz Fletcher
- Bob Larochele
- Ann Moser
- Matt Robinson-Liu

Bob L moved we accept the minutes from May 8. Liz seconded. Passed unanimously. Liz moved we accept the minutes from our special meeting on May 21. Bob L seconded. Passed unanimously.

Bob L moved that we pay **Crafts Appraisal Associates the sum of \$2,100** for the appraisal of B-4-2. Anna seconded. Passed unanimously with Barbara recusing herself. Money to come from the General Fund.

Liz reports the NH Aviation Historical Society wants to have an event in Mason commemorating Bronson Potter's flight under the Greenville RR Trestle. Liz asked if the CC would like to be a sponsor of the event, allowing them to use the Mason town hall. No money is involved. All agreed. Liz will look into reserving the town hall.

Met with Dennis Graham to discuss our rental agreement for the Old Ashby Rd. property. The rental agreement is due for renewal. Regarding the HWA infestation at the property, Bob D will contact Chris Leask who successfully eradicated the pest on his hemlocks with beetles purchased from Pennsylvania. Dennis does a lot of repair and maintenance at the property but during discussion the question came up about whether we need to hire licensed professionals for certain kinds of work (e.g., plumbing and electrical). Bob D will talk to the Building Inspector about this. Then conversation moved to lease renewal.

Bob D gave an update on the SBH project. The LCHIP application will be ready for review on Monday 6/17. Agreed to hold a special meeting at 7:00 PM on Thurs. 6/20 to review the application. On the same topic, Bob L. asked if we still want to pursue a possible timber harvest to raise money. All agreed that it's worth pursuing. Bob will work with Bill Downs to select some potential sites. Once we pick one, we'll have Bill do an inventory so he's ready to go when market conditions improve.

Barbara told us about an offer from an Amherst conservation commissioner to come to a meeting and present a method he has developed for keeping track of conservation easements and deed restrictions that the CC is responsible for enforcing. All agreed we should invite him to our July meeting.

Liz presented several new written policies (to help satisfy LCHIP requirements): Policy for Managing Conservation, Policy for Evaluating Proposed Uses of Conservation Land, and Policy for Amending Conservation Easements. Bob D moved that we adopt these policies as amended. Bob L seconded. Passed unanimously. Liz will arrange to have the policies posted to the CC page of the town Web site.

Discussed the recent letters from LCHIP, one with new demands for pursuing Craig Fifield's proposed ammendment, and a second alleging violations of the Fifield Tree Farm conservation easement. There's no action for the CC to take on the first. On the second, we'll be following up with the decision at last night's Selectmen meeting to engage Town Counsel on the matter. We read through LCHIP's complaints to collect comments to be delivered to Town Counsel at the appropriate time. Liz will contact Attny. Drescher to ask that he quickly request an extension—LCHIP's stated deadline of June 24 is impractical—and to arrange an appointment to review the letter in detail.

Agreed to schedule a hearing on our draft conservation plan for July 17 at 7:30. Will invite at least the Planning Board so they have a chance to comment.

Bob L will check with Amos White to ensure he schedules the remaining work on the RR Trail this year.

Bob L reports that Dave Morrison is seeking permission to cut three dead hemlock trees along Greenville Rd. on the Bronson Potter land. Permission granted.

Barbara read a report from the police regarding the status of the case against vandals of the Jackson RR trestle. Some restitution should be forthcoming.

Ann reminded us of proper use of email.

Bob D. responded to a request from Cassie Mullen asking for comment on the special exception granted to the Driving Range allowing outdoor concerts. At the original ZBA hearing, ZBA chair said he intended to apply OSHA standards in determining acceptable noise levels, but the description of the conditions for the special exception says nothing about this or anything else related to sound level. Liz will pass these remarks on to Cassie.