



Mason Conservation Commission D R A F T Minutes

Dec. 8, 2021, 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Attendance:

- **Chuck Andersen – present**
- **Barbara DeVore – present**
- **Liz Fletcher – present**
- **Bob Larochelle – present**
- **Lundy Lewis – present**
- **Ann Moser – present**

Alternates:

- Matt Robinson-Liu – absent
- Rob Doyle – absent
- Charlie Lanni – absent
- Rosanna Nadeau – absent
- Chris Pratka – absent

Barbara moved we accept the November minutes. Ann seconded. Passed unanimously.

Liz moved we **pay Beaver Solutions of Southamptton MA \$300 for doing a site assessment at Scripps Lane.** Barbara seconded. Passed unanimously.

Liz moved we pay **Bestway Wildlife Control of Sandown, NH \$2,019.96 for installing a beaver control device at Scripps Lane.** Bob Larochelle seconded. Passed unanimously. Money for both bills to come from the Conservation General Fund, budget category Land Management.

Action Items Review: Barbara reported that she contacted Tom Jones of Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) about their interest in conserving 2 parcels in Mason. Tom did some map work on this, concluded that only the larger one would be of interest. He said that PLC is very busy now with projects. CC decided not to follow up further with PLC on this.

Liz had contacted two professionals who deal with beaver problems to do the site assessment at Scripps Lane: Mike Callahan (Beaver Solutions) and Chuck Crowe (Bestway Wildlife Control) They both came to assess and presented estimates which CC voted on at the Nov. 24th emergency meeting, choosing Bestway for the job, which was now completed.

Scripps Lane runoff problems: CC received a report of road drainage from Scripps Lane and runoff from abutting land causing sedimentation problems in an important wildlife pond downstream. Land abutting the eastern culvert on Scripps Lane was cleared and trenched, a new driveway added, surface drainage changed, and an underground pipe installed draining into this culvert's catchbasin. Stormwater runoff from heavy rains this summer has led to sediment build-up in the downstream pond which is habitat for Blandings and Wood turtles, and banded sunfish. The Select Board has been notified by the pond's owner but has not yet responded. After some discussion, CC agreed that NHDES should be contacted for advice about what can be done to address this situation. Liz will contact NHDES.

Quarry – Beaver Flooding on Scripps Lane: At last this problem is under control-- Rocky Brook flows through the culvert and the road is no longer a beaver dam, thanks to the work of Chuck Crowe and his assistant Jim of Bestway Wildlife Control. Despite the cold weather and thick ice chunks, they installed a beaver deceiver which the beavers build their dam on without blocking the culvert. Many thanks to Dave and the Highway crew who kept the culvert open so they could complete the job before winter set in.

Possible land donation: We've been contacted by a representative of a long-time Mason area family who might be interested in donating two parcels for conservation. One abuts existing conservation land and has a perennial stream. The other is larger and although it doesn't abut conservation land, it has excellent conservation qualities. It includes Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat in NH, as mapped by 2020 NH Wildlife Action Plan. Ann offered to write a letter to the landowners encouraging them to donate to the town and describing how the CC can help this process by providing deed preparation and IRS qualified appraisal as we've done for other land gifts.

RR Trail – washout same place south of Depot: CC decided that before choosing a contractor to improve RR Trail surface on the 3.3 miles identified as needing work, we should fix this area first. The problem shouldn't recur now that Micheal Chang, owner of the beaver pond that caused the washout, has engaged a professional to control the pond level. Ann will ask Eric Andersen and Amos White to submit bids for this job, to be completed this spring.

Turtle underpass Townsend Rd: Barbara reported that Joshua, turtle expert at NH Fish and Game, can attend our Jan 12 meeting.

Third public Planning Board hearing on proposed wetlands buffer ordinance is Dec 29th. Liz will prepare a wetlands ordinance amendments Q & A for town website.

Easement monitoring: Stewart/Grovesteen & E-1 MacGarvey done

Fifield, Doonan, Spaulding Pond – Bob Laroche can do with help of Chris Pratka or Bob Dillberger if available

Ann offered to help with E-2 Meloon easement monitoring.

Bird survey of Nissitissit Headwaters: Gail Coffey of Wilton has made an excellent report of bird life on this PLC land. CC will ask her if we can put it up on the town website.

Conservation Land signs update: What to say on Beck sign?

Jennifer Beck has suggested "Mason Brook Lot in Memory of Ted and Gen Beck" CC would prefer "Old Mill Conservation Land in Memory of Ted and Gen Beck" Certainly Mason Brook is an important feature of this lot but its most unique feature is the foundation of the Old Mill of Old Mill Road. Barbara will contact Jennifer to ask for her OK for this.

New CC member needed: Now that Bob Dillberger has resigned, another CC member is needed. Barbara advised that Alternate member Chris Pratka works late on Wed nights so couldn't attend meetings. Two other people were suggested, Liz and Barbara will each ask one of them.

Barbara recommended that we honor Bob Dillberger for his tremendous service to Mason Conservation. We all heartily agree. Barbara will look into various options for doing this.

Action Items

See relevant minutes for more information about these items.

<i>Added</i>	<i>Done</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Item</i>
Mar 2021	Nov	Bob D	Add Jennifer Beck property (G-4) to NRI maps and report.
Sep 2021		Chuck	Check on maple tree stock availability.
		Bob D & Bob L	Arrange conservation land sign installation
		Chuck	Contact Jen about adding attachment capability to Web contact form
		Chuck	Check with Winter Wanderers about tracked ATV use on Rail Trail
		Chuck	Identify state contact person for Nose Meadow sign damage and repair
Oct 2021		Barbara	Follow up with Neil Lambert about quarry graffiti removal.
	Nov	Bob D.	Start work on sign for Jen Beck parcel.
	Nov	Liz	Forward emails about training.
Nov 2021		Barbara	Contact Eversource about proper log placement at the overlook.
Dec 2021		Liz	Contact NHDES re Scripps Lane runoff problems
		Ann	write a letter to landowners re donation to town
		Ann	ask Eric Andersen and Amos White to submit bids for RR Trail washout
		Barbara	contact Jennifer Beck to ask for her OK on sign wording