

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
June 10, 2020

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, David McTigue, Chairman, Matt Oliveira, Michael Bara, Kleta Dudley (SoRLAC Rep), Lori Rautiola, Secretary, Scott Butcher, Town Administrator
ABSENT: Jack Messe, Karen Miller

The meeting was called to order at the NICC parking lot/Preston Hill Road entrance on June 10, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Committee Reports:

Signs: Bob reported trail markers have been ordered. There was discussion on what was the best way to enter the Preston Hill Trail. Members agreed the best way to enter the trail was through the back parking lot behind the congregational church instead of the road. Michael agreed to fix the sign at the trailhead.

Lands: Bob asked how members were doing with monitoring their assigned properties. Matt and Michael agreed the properties they had been walking were in good condition. Bob noted drones would be useful to aid the Commission with monitoring some of the town properties. Bob mentioned there had been signs of OHRVs along the Preston Hill Trail and also on Binney Hill Road. He also noted he spoke to the Select board Chair, David Lage briefly about closing the last part of Binney Hill Road and making it a Class A trail. He noted Mr. Lage questioned if that trail would then become a trail like the other Class A trails in town and become impassable. Michael noted there was no signs of OHRVs on the Whirlpool Road Trail.

New Business: The Commission discussed the wetland violation on Poor Farm Road. Bob noted he had submitted some pictures that were taken with a drone to the State. Town Administrator, Scott Butcher stated after speaking with the Police Chief and Town Counsel, in their opinion the use of drones being operated by a private party flying over someone else's property is most likely less of an issue. Bob noted the drone was flown by a private party. Mr. Butcher continued stating if the pictures are going to be used for official representation, such as the pictures being sent to the State, there is a problem. It would then require a search warrant. Bob stated he did not disagree and that the laws are rapidly changing. Bob stated he did not think the pictures would be much use as the State will conduct an onsite investigation by the Alteration of Terrain Bureau and the Wetlands Bureau.

Members walked the Preston Hill Road trail. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola
Secretary

