

DRAFT MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Dixie Rhoads, Doug Waitt, Matthew Oliveira, David McTigue, Becky Doyle, Joanne Meshna

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office.

Doug made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2012 meeting. Dixie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Trails: Doug, Matt and David did some cutting and maintenance work on the Geoffer's Trail. The trail needs better marking.

Dixie, Bob and David did maintenance work on the Williams' Trail. The trail needs to be identified closer to Main Street so people will be able to find it.

The Kellogg trail still needs to be done. It was suggested that it be laid out at the same time that Doug does the monitoring of the property around late October.

Lands: There is a problem with the power of attorney for the Williston property. A letter has been sent by Attorney Hanna to Mr. Williston. To correct the problem will cost \$500 and members agreed it should come out of the selling price of \$8,000.

A new lock is needed on the gate at Dam Site 35 and Bob has contacted Jeff Salmonson to look at it and make a recommendation. Also, a gate with a lock is needed on the Johnson property and Bob will add \$2,500 to the 2013 budget to cover it.

Water Resources: David continues to work on the stream buffer amendment.

Tree Warden: Bob noted that the question of who the Tree Warden reports to, the Conservation Commission or the Selectmen, has come up, and added that several years ago the Commission had been designated by the Selectmen.

Becky reviewed some of her duties as Tree Warden and then explained the job she and the Director of Public Works are working on now. The Public Works Department was given \$10,000 for tree removal. Becky and Peter Goewey designated several trees that were dead and are a safety issues and should be removed. The trees are in the town's right-of-way and those property owners where the trees are located at the edge of their property will be sent letters informing them of the tree cutting. They are given the option of keeping the wood for themselves or thirty days from the date of the letter the Town will dispose of the wood if the property owner does not want it. On scenic roads, the

same process is followed according to the NH RSAs. There is no public hearing requirement.

Bob noted that the Commission would like to see trees replaced where possible. Becky referred to four dead trees on Willard Road that will be removed; she plans to replace them with sugar maples. On Stone's landing, suggestion was made to plant cranberry bushes.

Doug made a motion to not hold the landowner accountable for cutting trees on their property on a scenic road for any RSA that we are aware of. The motion was not seconded. Dixie was told to go ahead and remove her trees.

New business: Members discussed hunting on conservation land and how to make hikers aware. Different signage was discussed. Bob will check with other towns to see how they handle this issue and what the legal requirements are.

Bob and Dixie are up for re-election. The October meeting is the annual meeting and membership will be on the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary