Franconia Conservation Commission

Meeting: February 27, 2017, 8 AM Franconia Town Hall

Members present: Mary Grote, Chris Nicodemus, Kim Cowles and Mark Ober

Minutes of 1/26/2017 reviewed. Chris moved to accept, Kim Seconded and minutes were approved unanimously.

*The FA-NEMBA Trail meeting* of Monday evening was discussed. There was an energetic turn out of folks representing Franconia and Littleton. Jody Chinchen of the National Forest Service led a lengthy discussion of the ongoing review process for the integration of the trails mostly named in the Franconia area trail map but also extending to the Jericho Trail in south Easton into the official named trail pedigree of the Pemi Ranger District. The proposal is in the late review stage, however its ultimate approval will depend on classification decisions defining the administrative review path for the project that are pending. Jody will work with a team of local volunteers to guide us through the remaining process that may be as short as six months or several years to complete. The meeting also included an update from the Profile Trails Group. This grass roots effort by Jill Brewer, Angela Figallo McShane, and Charlie Wolcott is seeking to build ADA compliant trails to providing a non-motorized route to regional schools and to enhance community health. The organization will partner with ACT and FA-NEMBA and the establishment of the FANEMBA Regional Trail Fund provides a way to receive tax deductible donations with 100% of proceeds being applied to local trail design, construction and maintenance.

*McKenzie Woods trails conservation easement*: The site visit February 6th traced the northeastern border and the extension along the Middle Earth Trail, it is well defined but additional conservation land signs are needed. The border extending south opposite from Middle Earth will need to be scouted in a follow up visit, but the property seems to be in good condition . CN will review sign sourcing with Rebecca Brown at ACT.

*The Lafayette Recreation RTP grant* is funded and pending implementation for addition of ledge pack to the main corridor trail to improve access into the heart of the Fox Hill lower woodland. Work is planned for early May.

*Wetlands training by DES*: Red talked to Mary Ann Tilton and an effort to schedule a training session in March is pending finalization. As a post meeting addendum CN contacted Mary Ann and also Barbara Richter (of NHACC). It is anticipated an event open to neighboring commissions will be held in the last week of March at Town Hall….there are multiple timing conflicts but a final time will be defined shortly. The training will be coordinated by Collis Adams.

Formalization of Mark Ober and John Lachapelle appointments requires a directive from the Select board which Kim Cowles will address with the Board today.

Next meeting: suggested Tuesday March 28t at 8 am just in advance of training. To be confirmed as third Tuesday had been suggested in last month’s meeting notes (needs clarification).

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 am

Minutes submitted by Chris Nicodemus