Franconia Conservation Commission

Meeting: Oct 27, 2016 8 am

Members present: Mary Grote, Ginny Jeffryes, Kim Cowles, Red McCarthy, Chris Nicodemus.

Minutes of 9/30/2016 reviewed. Chris moved to approve, Red seconds, unanimously approved.

Update on Rails to Trails grant: Dave Govatski from Jefferson will walk the initial part of Gale River Trail with us on Nov 6 at 1pm for his expertise about ideas for how to approach improving it for wheelchair accessibility.

New CC member(s) – 2 potentially interested parties considering it. We’re at an OK number now with 6: RSA mandates 3-7 members. Can have one more, and would be good to have an alternate.

MTAG Grant – meeting November 15th 7p-8:30 Town Hall. On the website, flyers being handed out. To discuss how to strengthen community, planning. Facilitated by Kayla at North Country Council.

Chris and Kim went to a meeting in Gorham funded by Tillotson Foundation about trails and energy efficiency. Format was brainstorming in focus groups about how to add value to communities: esthetics their topic.

NEMBA meeting – Kim and Chris went, good meeting about regional bike trails, Taylor Caswell attended. Taylor Caswell has turned his private Parker Mountain into community trails for Littleton. Forest Service rep also there. Nothing specific related to Franconia.

Main St construction behind Presby building - a storage building for their plumbing supplies, ? a small office, propane heat, close to Gale River. Inquiry about if they have appropriate permit? We haven’t seen one. Red remembers at a meeting 3 yrs ago they agreed to maintain/leave alone the river trail. Mary recalls from from planning board meeting no new hearing needed because was on their existing footprint. Gale is a 4th order river so anything within 250 feet needs Shoreland protection permit with certain exceptions, not sure if they met the exceptions. Ginny will check on this further.

Discussion of Presby’s clearcutting the hill to the wetland on SE side of Easton Road near Transfer Station, little driveway built. Was wetlands permit needed? We didn’t see one. Chris will look further into that. Also clear cut by Cyr property near Ham Branch. ? wetlands or Alteration of Terrain permit needed.

We’ll approach NHAAC to see if they can come, or do conference call with us to educate us on these sorts of issues. Red typically depends on a professional wetlands scientist when he needs help: discussion of whether we can hire a professional for education from our remaining small budget.

Permit for pond on Old County Road was approved by DES per Kim. She will start bringing to FCC’s attention the DES approved permits that come in to the town office.

Brief discussion of need to develop/update the mandated Natural Resources Inventory over the next 1-2 yrs, how to do without a budget to hire a professional as some towns do. Ask Sally to locate the partial one done in past.

Next meeting Thursday Dec 1st 8:45 am (postponed to Dec due to Thanksgiving)..

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 am

Minutes submitted by Ginny Jeffryes