Franconia Conservation Commission

Meeting: Dec 1, 8:45 am

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

Minutes of 10/27/2016 reviewed. Chris moved to approve, Mary seconds, unanimously approved.

Update on Rails to Trails grant in Fox Hill Park: Language was for “wheelchair-friendly” trail. Trail plans have had to been shortened to 850 feet of Gale River Trail (basically to about the Collman property trail) due to having received only $4600 of the request. Ginny reports that Dave Govatski of Jefferson walked the initial part of Gale River Trail with her on Nov 6. He recommended 6” deep ¾-minus ledgepack mixed with small amt of Portland Cement, with textile cloth beneath, 5 ft wide, and in the wet areas would need gravel under and some wet areas likely needing large rocks under for drainage. He also noted that all roots taller than 2” need to be removed, along with some trees that are too close together, and some hazard trees, some stumps to remove. Roots continue to grow and will disrupt trail if not removed. Dave also identified a possible alternate trail route – a circular one – which would leave the Gale River trail, heads gently up the hill and circles back to the south side of parking lot, to consider, as it avoids the wettest areas.

Discussion points: At this point grant funding wouldn’t cover an alternate trail. Would be good if we can borrow a Gator. Need to wait until spring to start the project.

New CC member(s) – 2 potentially interested parties still considering, no active need yet since we have 6.

Kim collected old and recent Conservation Commission info in one place. Ginny will work on organizing it.

MTAG Grant – meeting was November 15th at Town Hall. Some input gathered. Kayla of NCC will be meeting a few times with planning board as next steps, next is December 15th. Chris to remain actively involved.

Main St new building construction behind the Presby building is 50 feet away from the Gale River. Ginny checked DES website but hasn’t yet phoned them to inquire. It is not clear to her from website about exceptions to whether needed another Shoreland protection permit. We need training re this.

Discussion of construction on Easton Rd of new storage building behind current Presby storage units – it’s wet back there by the Ham Branch where they’re developing. Did they need a permit and if so, did they get? 3rd order river, not Shoreland, but ? wetland. Same issue with the clearing on other side of Easton Road. Re NHACC resources, Kim will tell Chris who to call there.

Re Conservation Commission training for wetlands – Red sent email with info that Mary Ann Tilton of DES can provide someone to meet with us to go over regulations, and would like us to invite neighboring towns Conservation Commissions to the training, sometime in or after January. Need to check with neighboring towns about timing of this.

Chris worked on beaver pipe drainage at the Beaver dam, and this should prevent water level from rising if the beavers return to Lawrence property.

At January meeting need to finalize the warrant article for the conservation easement on Lawrence Property. Chris to discuss w/Rebecca and Kim to discuss w/ Selectmen, think lawyer needs to help.

In January we’ll set a date to walk the McKenzie woods conservation easement we hold, once ground frozen.

Next meeting Thursday Dec 29th, 8 am

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am

Minutes submitted by Ginny Jeffryes