Franconia Conservation Commission - minutes.

June 30, 2016. Official start 5:29 when quorum achieved.

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

--Update on Wetlands application for M. Roianov property by Sam Stephenson– re applicant’s request that FCC sign off on expediting the NH DES permit.

4 of 5 committee members who visited site on 6/2/16 stayed for full tour/ discussion that day (Mary, Chris, Red, Kim). They thought application/plan didn’t have adequate information, so had asked for more details in the plans. On June 3 a letter with revised map was delivered, which Red and Chris reviewed. Both are concerned that amended plans still are under-delineated. Wondering if impact possibly larger than minimal per Env-wt 303.4. They think a wetlands scientist should look it, especially re the soils. This year is drier than usual years so wetlands and vernal pools are smaller or dried up compared to usual.

General discussion re meaning of a Conservation Commission signoff on expedited permit – to do so, CC should be comfortable that plan is complete/acceptable.

Red makes motion: “We do not have enough information without delineation by a certified wetlands scientist, so the Franconia Conservation Commission will not sign off on the request for an expedited permit.” Chris seconds. Unanimous vote to approve motion.

-- Lawrence property purchase update

Rebecca Brown of ACT unable to attend today’s meeting, so sent email update: Hopes to close Fri 7/8/2016, needs a signer from town present at closing and to sign easement document that John LaChapelle was to have discussed with rest of Select Board. Also says she is awaiting title review report still. Discussion that since Kim Cowles and/or John LaChapelle aren’t here, we don’t know status of this. Chris will check on that.

--Grant from Trails Bureau for handicapped accessible trail in Fox Hill Park has been submitted, per Kim’s email info.

--6/1/2016 meeting minutes: Chris makes motion to accept the minutes of 6/1. Mary seconds. Unanimous vote to accept.

--? about making a policy about whether people can take plants from Town Forests. Background: An inquiry about a week ago to Kim from an out-of-state visitor about taking home specimens of bunchberry from Fox Hill Park. Visitor said 7 years ago someone at Town office gave permission to take home 4 small striped maples to plant on his property. Kim referred query to Ginny due to wildflower/plant knowledge. Uncomfortable situation since visitor traveling home before current FCC meeting. Population adequate, said ok, but prior to collecting, visitor called requesting more: a few specimens of two northern tree species. At this point, she said no, and conveyed info about NH State Nursery’s mail order business – sells inexpensive young native trees and shrubs propagated from seed --every spring at nhnursery.com

Discussion about issue. Consensus is no plant/tree removal without special exceptions.

Ginny makes a motion that removing plants from Town conservation properties is not permitted unless a special exception is requested of the FCC for scientific purposes. Mary seconds. Unanimous vote.

--Update about Northern Pass FCC intervenor status by Ginny, FCC’s rep: We have individual intervenor status granted by the NH SEC, but we were lumped into a large group with Select Board/Planning Board, and with the other “buried” intervenor towns in our area, for purpose of discovery requests, and adjudicatory proceedings. For more than a month, Ginny has not been included in the information loop re Towns’ NP-related lawyer’s actions on our group’s behalf, despite verbal and email inquiries to Select Board’s rep/liaison. Thus, unfortunately, nothing else to report.

--Update on Lawrence property access: Red looked at the assessor’s map of Sawmill Lane– 100’ wide deeded right of way owned by the Town extending to edge of stream. Need to check deed to verify.

Next meeting: Change to last Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. - next meeting Wed July 28th. Will need to check with members not present today about this plan.

Adjourned 6:25 pm

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Submitted by Ginny Jeffryes