Franconia Conservation Commission (FCC)

Meeting: Oct 22, 2019 5:30 pm

Members present: Jill Brewer, Mary Grote, Ginny Jeffryes, Chris Nicodemus, Art Daily, Mark Ober

Membership: Jill points out that not having Kim on FCC now is difficult. Kim has been on it for a long time and has good history. Mary says she has contacted Kim to have a conversation sometime after her current soccer season ends. Jill agrees that is an important step. Kim is essential to have on the commission again. Mary is optimistic that sitting down together to iron out their misunderstandings will help. Chris agrees this is the best possible solution to the problem.

Wells Road property: Chris, Art: Potential for conservation of Van Pelt property: an L shaped piece which has a bike/ski trail running through it, which has access to Wells Road. 3 neighbors want to contribute to ACT in order to persuade buying the land, but Rebecca says they need additional support, for example from NEMBA, the Franconia Inn, the Conservation Commission. We can offer a letter of support for this. Another abutter is planning to put their land into conservation with ACT, so this would give a nice large continguous piece. Discussion that we aren’t sure whether Rebecca would find a letter useful at this early stage. Ginny will phone her to inquire. Jill moves that the Franconia Conservation Commission write a letter in support of the value of the Van Pelt property being in conservation. Mark seconds. All present vote yes, except Art abstains as an abutter.

Re continguous land for the Franconia trail system: Chris says part of Tucker’s Trail [mostly in Lawrence Family Forest] goes through an upland part of the Campground’s land, and some other important trails go through Andy Hyde’s property (60 acres). Andy Hyde is happy with the trails being there. But, if he were to eventually sell, it’s possible that interconnectivity would be lost. ACT should be interested in this 60 acre property, because it is contiguous with the Lawrence Family Forest, and is a good access point. For the same reason, the Town should be interested. Unanimous support to suggest Chris explore this issue of the Hyde property further.

Jon Swan’s group, Save Forest Lake, approached us [via email to Town Administrator 10-20-19] to write a letter to express opposition to Casella developing a landfill adjacent to Forest Lake. Discussion tabled due to lack of time.

Next meeting: TBD, possibly Tues Nov 19 or Wed November 20th 3 pm.

Minutes by Ginny Jeffryes.