

Franconia Conservation Commission (FCC)

Meeting: Oct 3, 2023, 3 pm at Town Hall. (Started at 3:20 when quorum present)

Members present: Chris Nicodemus (Chair), Ginny Jeffryes, Art Daily, Jill Brewer

Guests: Julie Weisman, Michelle Sauque

Chris and Ginny: Explained to guests what conservation commissions do under NH statute. Chris recommends reviewing NHACC (New Hampshire Assn of Conservation Commissions) website resources.

Minutes: Art moves to approve 9-5-23 minutes. Jill seconds. All voted in favor.

NRI update: Chris reports that Elise Lawson's Watershed to Wildlife contract to do our NRI was approved by Select Board (SB).

Revision of the Town Master Plan (MP), Chapter 10: FCC MP subcommittee (Chris, Ginny, and volunteer Stephen Schwartz) worked on updating 2008 MP chapter. Chris made a few minor changes. Discussion occurs of draft of changes, and conservation goals. Ginny wants to add addressing the increasing nighttime light pollution. Chris will finish updating our working document and send to Elise Lawson for her input. Goal is to complete the draft before our Nov 7 meeting, then give to Planning Board in November.

Town Forester hiring: Chris noticed 3 new clear cuts recently, including one in the woods south of Harvard St. Ginny notes that forest was a wildlife corridor and wildlife home territory. Hiring is awaiting next year's Town budget approval.

Town Forest (lot 17-2) and Lot 17-3 conservation: Chris reports that ACT says they obtained donor funding for the associated conservation costs, so there is no need to do grant-writing. Appreciation expressed. Ginny asks when we are going to discuss easement restrictions on use of property. Chris says we have time; the easement process proceeding slowly. Elise will be helpful, and he will contact her about looking at it.

Budget: brief discussion about whether to increase it - \$500 currently. To be addressed by Dec or Jan meeting. A hydrology study would require grant funding.

Lawrence Family Forest's possible new NEMBA trails: No info from NEMBA, about the NEEPA process or other work. Julie and Michelle point out that they noticed trail work was being done last week between Old Pebble Beach Trail and new Pebble Beach. Ginny says we need to be informed, because per statute we manage conservation fund properties.

Sabados property erosion stabilization plan update: No new information.

Meeting schedule: Chris suggests first Tuesday of each month at 3 pm. General agreement to try for this for advanced planning.

Membership: Julie and Michelle are interested in being alternates. Per Chris, it's possible Dan will step down because he's currently too busy. Discussion of process of appointment: vote of us, then SB does the appointment. We lost quorum as this item was initiated (Jill), so deferred to Nov 7 meeting.

Next meeting: November 7 at 3 pm

Minutes by Ginny Jeffryes