Franconia Conservation Commission (FCC) \*\* DRAFT MINUTES \*\*

Meeting: Nov 17, 2020, 3 pm

Members present: Mary Grote, Ginny Jeffryes, Chris Nicodemus, Red McCarthy, Art Daily, Jill Brewer

Old minutes 7-28-20 reviewed. Art moves to accept. Mary seconds. Unanimously approved.

Nomination of officers for 2021: Discussion that no particular need for a Vice Chair. Jill moves that Chris continues as Chair, and Ginny continues as Secretary. Chris seconds. Unanimous vote.

We have 7 members, which statutorily is the maximum. But we are open to accepting alternates.

Van Pelt Property on Wells Road – an Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) acquisition. Chris reports: It’s 10.78 acres on Wells Road. Asking price was $170,000, appraisal was $135,000, owner accepted offer of $140,000. Will likely close in early December. Big turnout of support from community and neighbors. ACT is looking to establish a conservation stewardship fund. They are working towards being able to put a small permeable surface parking area with a kiosk for a couple cars right by Wells Road. It’s time for FCC to authorize the previously discussed $5000 to this project fund at ACT. Discussion: Mary mentions that parking lot entry/exit needs to be safe re traffic. Chris says we can donate to the stewardship fund, with strings or no strings re management of the donation. Ginny moves that we make a resolution that we wish to request the Select Board to authorize a contribution from current use conservation fund to go to ACT project’s Van Pelt property stewardship fund and encourage ACT to develop an access point such as a small parking area with kiosk. Mary seconds. Art recuses. Remainder of members unanimously in favor.

Point of info from Chris re other trail areas: Owner Lafayette Development – the land by Horse and Hound, Lovett’s Field - is exploring with ACT conservation options. Mary adds that there’s an area beyond the end of County Line Road where Thad Presby at Planning Board is planning to put houses. Discussion that this may be the 60 acre piece with important trails adjacent to Lawrence Family Forest. Chris’s update on the Crawford property proposed sanctuary (on Rte 142 across from the Copper Cannon road): her heirs have had second thoughts. So that is currently not in progress with ACT.

Update: Franconia Ski Club building at Mittersill- new wetlands permit issued earlier this year because they had to move a water line due to need for higher water pressure for fire purposes. Construction has begun.

NHACC annual meeting: Ginny and Chris attended a couple online workshops. Chris attended one on conservation commissions working with land trusts – not much new info – and one on developing natural resource inventories. Ginny attended the one on natural resource inventories and resource map app use. Mentioned option for community input using an app and perhaps a large physical map for documentation of plant/animal/vernal pool etc finds. Ginny mentions she wants to lead nature walks this spring or summer about native plants and mushrooms, assuming Covid-19 safety conditions permit.

Chris update: Re Profile trail – Rocks is having second thoughts about part of the route plan. But the part between Franconia and the high school is still progressing.

Next meeting: TBD based on need

Minutes by Ginny Jeffryes