Franconia Conservation Commission (FCC)

Meeting: Nov 21, 2017 8 a.m.

Members present: Jill Brewer, Chris Nicodemus, Ginny Jeffryes, Mary Grote, Red McCarthy, Mark Ober.

Minutes reviewed 10/24/2017: Chris clarifies that the Friends of Profile Trail is leading the effort re the Franconia Regional Trail Master Plan. Jill moves to approve minutes as amended. Chris seconds. Amended minutes unanimously approved.

Overview of Franconia Regional Trails Meeting 11/14/2017 (Chris, Jill): Good attendance with lots of excitement, many from Franconia, Easton, and Sugar Hill. 4 Conservation Commission members attended. Meghan McCarthy McPhaul wrote article appearing in the Union Leader, and Jill has heard from others elsewhere who want to help with the project. Friends of Profile Trail is a loose association, led by Chris Nicodemus and Sandy Olney as fiscal agents. NEMBA has permitted Friends of Profile 501-C3 status to set up a fund, which has $5000 in it so far. Multiple affiliate organizations are participating. Mission statement is “To foster healthy lifestyles by developing and maintaining networks of nonmotorized trails in the region North of Franconia Notch.” John Morton, who leads Morton Trails group, offered to help with the Bickford Hill/Ham Branch trail and the Franconia-Profile HS-Bethlehem trail (Angela’s Trail). They’re working on putting together a trails Master Plan.

McKenzie Woods conservation easement– Chris, Kim, Ginny on 10/24 walked the southeast section borders which was the portion not walked last winter. Parts of it aren’t marked along the east boundary, until you get to Middle Earth trail. Also at Grote’s property corner near the airport there was some unclarity about exact location of one of the pins on the map. Mary reports it’s somewhat messy in there. Her fence isn’t right at the boundary line. Will request Kim to look for the large map (instead of the smaller pieced-together subsections we had from it), so Red can look at it. Red has survey equipment to be able to piece together the angles listed. We can post conservation easement signs without knowing exactly where pins are, so long as the signs are clearly within our easement. There was no encroachment on the easement on the portions we walked. Need to check with Kim next meeting about whether the FCC easement placards have been ordered.

Crocker property update. (Chris). 65 acre Crocker sanctuary closing is supposed to happen before the end of the year. Chris, Kim and a few other volunteers removed some old dumped items: a microwave, 5 tires and large amount of old plastic sheeting. Intent is a few walking trails only, a quiet place for contemplation. It’s along Wiseman Brook. ACT plans to have a sign at entrance.

Wildlife Action Plan meeting, originally planned for today, was postponed. Plan to have it December 19th 8 a.m. Amanda Stone of UNH Coop Extension will be bringing 2 people from UNH Coop Extension to talk about community trails, and Jim Frohne, Grafton County forester, is planning to attend.

Lawrence property: Beavers built 3 smaller dams stepwise downstream from the previous one, more than a month ago. Looks like no hazards associated; Red reports this is good for flood control. Two heavy rains since then, with no problems with dam-related flooding.

Next meeting: Tues Dec 19, 8 a.m.

Minutes by Ginny Jeffryes.