Franconia Conservation Commission (FCC)

Meeting: June 18, 2019 3:30 pm

Members present: Jill Brewer, Kim Cowles, Mary Grote, Ginny Jeffryes, Red McCarthy, Chris Nicodemus

Guests: Sean Sweeney, wetlands scientist

FSC lodge: Sean Sweeney here to present plans for a new Franconia Ski Club (FSC) ski lodge at Mittersill, because they have no clubhouse where they now race, since races were relocated from Cannon. Now they have only a pit toilet and warming hut. They are having some large races there now. The new lodge is planned for the base of the Taft training slope. Sean is doing the wetlands permitting, because the area they want to use is wet. They’ve looked at 3 upland sites but neither has a view of the racing slopes, and vehicle access would be a problem at the upland sites. So this current plan works best. Lodge planned to be 9500 sq feet, 46 x 66 feet, 40 feet tall, with 2 levels on the uphill side ad and additional walkout level on bottom. Chalet style to fit with Mittersill. Access to the lodge will be public, due to the grant funding. The bottom of the ski slopes is mostly a wet meadow, seasonally saturated, per Sean’s wetlands mapping, which he shows us today. It’s currently mowed seasonally when dries up. Access via permeable walkway 10 feet wide. There will be 20,000-30,000 sq feet wetlands impact to the plans. Compensatory wetlands mitigation plan is to add 40.5 acres to the top and bottom of the existing Bicknell’s Thrush mitigation, including both sides of the origin of Meadow Brook. There are no rare plants within their planned areas. The minimum required mitigation is 10:1. Their plan is 80:1. Once engineering is finalized, he will submit the wetlands permit application. They have met with all the State of NH groups involved.

Discussion by FCC members. We concluded we like the mitigation plan. Kim moves to send a letter of no objection to FSC via Sean Sweeney for the wetlands plans as presented. Jill seconds. Unanimously approved.

Gale River walk update: River walk with ledge pack is coming along, needs another load still. The part from Presby’s to Garnet Hill is still not complete. The route now goes between Presby’s buildings due to complexity of widening the route on the river side, so knotweed there did not need to be dealt with.

Kim: She announces at end of meeting she is stepping down from FCC because she feels the need to distance herself from Mary, whom she feels is defaming her. She would be open to reappointment in the future if membership change. Discussion by members that she will be greatly missed.

Next meeting: to be determined

Minutes by Ginny Jeffryes.