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**Franconia Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**February 19, 2019 3 pm Meeting**

Attendees: Kim Cowles, Mary Grote, Chris Nicodemus, Jill Brewer

* The proposed work on the dam by Mountain View Road has been approved by DES. Red is also ok with the work.
* For the Borderlands initiative Chris needs to have a Borderlands central for the Profile Trail Network/FA-NEMBA. Chris suggested having a display space for maps of local trails and trail etiquette at the new pavilion to meet this need. After a brief discussion it was decided the best spot for this would be near where people park at the Dow. Kim is planning to replace the old sign at that spot anyway and hopes to make a sign out of the same material as the new kiosk at Fox Hill. She will make the sign big enough to accommodate a trail map and trail etiquette sign.
* Chris reports that Rebecca Brown suggested we look into applying to the Land-Water Conservation Fund Grant for a bridge to access the Lawrence Forrest. Kim is going to look into this grant to get more information.
* Rebecca Brown/ACT is working with Angela McShane and Chris on their efforts with the Profile Trail - if the Trail is able to get easements for the entire length (which is the goal) then ACT could hold the easements but this would be at a cost. Possibility LCHIP funding could help with this. Angela etc are coming up with a Stewardship Budget for the trail.
* Jill reported that Holly Burbank discovered an RSA: RSA 79-A:4, II that speaks to a Recreational Reduction for properties in Current Use which could help with the Profile Trail and other trail efforts. Essentially, it is an additional 20% reduction of the current use land value if the land is:
  + Open 12 months a year to public recreational use;
  + Without entrance fee: and
  + Which qualifies for current use under an “open space” category.
* Chris is applying for the NEMBA Trail Grant ($500). This is the same grant that paid for the Fox Hill kiosk. He would like a letter of support from the Conservation Commission; he will create one for Kim to sign.
* We need to elect (re-elect) a chairperson and secretary as Chris and Ginny’s terms were up at the end of 2018. If Chris and Ginny are willing to continue serving on the commission we also need to put their membership before the Selectboard to be ok’ed again.
* The Commission discussed adding Art as a full Committee Member (not just an alternate). This will change the quorum number to 5.
* **Next meeting: Tuesday March 19 at 3 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brewer