

Conservation Commission Meeting

May 25, 2022

Members present: Tim Copeland, Bob Keating, Bill Kenny, Allison Knab, Kyle Saltonstall

Non-members present: Seth Hickey, Recreation Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes:

- Mr. Kenny motioned, Mr. Copeland seconded, approved of the public and nonpublic April 2022 minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Mailbox

- NH Lakes sent a flier about the Lakes Conference, to be held June 2-3
- Receipt of DES Supply Lines newsletter
- NHACC sent an email reminder about our 2022 dues, in the amount of \$550. Mr. Kenny motioned, Mr. Saltonstall seconded a motion to approve payment from the Commission budget. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Knab will confirm with town staff that this is paid.

Road Side Clean-Up Day Recap

- We had a beautiful day for the event with a higher attendance than normal. Approximately 15 roads were cleaned by volunteers. Mr. Kenny has kept a list of roads visited.
- Mr. Kenny noted that the timing seemed good (mid-May).
- Ideas for next year: broader outreach to schools (especially ones that require community service), reach out to Scouts, remind people that they can come for a shorter period or clean up on Sunday
- Also next year: purchase waters, sandwiches without many toppings for kids

Planning and Municipal Updates

- Ms. Knab noted that the Age Friendly Community program was having a public forum the same evening.

TMAC Update

- Mr. Hickey said the newly reappointed Trail Management Advisory Committee met last week. Their charges for the year ahead include signage at the park, new trail maps, and trail work
- The Committee is exploring the possibility of limiting parking at the end of Jack Rabbit Lane to residents. Residents would need a transfer station sticker to park. The Committee proposes to post the restriction for a trial period to see what impact it has. TMAC proposed signage in the main parking lot regarding keeping dogs on leash in that area. The police department is aware of the proposal.
- Mr. Hickey said he has borrowed a counter from Rockingham Planning Commission and will be able to track the impact on visitor numbers before and after the change.
- Mr. Saltonstall supported the idea of limiting parking in grassy areas and reducing the impact on soils. Mr. Copeland expressed concern that it would not be enforceable without a new ordinance.
- Because the parking area is in the Town Forest, CC support is needed. The Commission indicated support for the trail period; Mr. Hickey and Ms. Knab will share the discussion with the Select Board.

- TMAC is also proposing trail-related work on the Lovell Road Trail. The current trail goes through a very wet area and the bridge over it is in very poor shape. Mr. Hickey indicated that the trail would be rerouted through a drier area and a new bridge composed of pressure treated wood and hemlock installed. The New England Mountain Biking Association is interested in doing the work, which is expected to take about half a day. Mr. Hickey plans to inform the Park Association as well. The reroute is discussed in the Trail Management Plan. The Commission indicated support for the plan.

Recreation Trails Program Grant

- Mr. Hickey is applying for a grant through the Trails Bureau in the amount of \$30K. The funds would cover material for trail bed hardening, including processed gravel and riprap material. Match for the grant would be made through volunteer time, race funds, CIP funds, and KG Blood & Son work time.
- Mr. Hickey plans to follow SELT trail recommendations for the work.
- Ms. Knab voted in support of the grant, Mr. Kenny seconded. All voted in favor. Ms. Knab will draft a letter of support.

At 7:43 p.m., Mr. Kenny motioned, Mr. Saltonstall seconded a motion to enter nonpublic session to discuss possible land acquisitions. All voted in favor.

At 8:09 p.m. Mr. Keating motioned, Mr. Copeland seconded a motion to exit nonpublic session. All voted in favor. Mr. Kenny motioned to seal the minutes; Mr. Keating seconded the motion. All voted in favor

At 8:10 p.m. Mr. Kenny motioned, Mr. Copeland seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab