

## Franeestown Conservation Commission Minutes

July 20, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. At the Fisher Hill Town Forest.

Welcomed new alternate member Jeff Briggs, Jeff was a former forester in the State of Vermont and is currently serving on the Forestry Committee for the Town of New Boston.

Members present: Betsy Hardwick, Pam Avery, Robin Haubrich, Don Crooker, alternate Jim St. Jean and alternate Jeff Briggs.

### **New Business:**

**Fisher Hill Town Forest:** Members agreed to accept the draft forestry management plan submitted by Ron Klemarczyk: it was noted that the plan is very comprehensive and nicely done. Discussed location and size for the parking area off State Route 47 and then flagged the approximate area. Hardwick noted that the driveway permit expires on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, if the work cannot be started before then we will need to file for an extension with the State of NH DOT. It was agreed that Hardwick will see if Rick and Steve Miller are available to do the work within the time frame, and to have them proceed if they are. Hardwick will ask for an estimate before proceeding. Also discussed the need for a gate on the woods road, it was agreed to have that installed after the parking area work was complete. Noted that the boundary blazing and painting is finished, invoice from Steve Perron for \$170 for the work has been submitted for payment from the Conservation fund. (Noted that Ben Haubrich donated his time to assist Steve with the work, helping to keep the cost down.)

**ZBA Application for variance from wetlands setback for septic system; O'Rourke, 238 King Hill Road, Map 5, Lot 85:** While the proposal seems to be generally acceptable and in line with the purpose of the ordinance, all agreed it would be preferred to have a site walk if possible, or at least to see a plan showing where the wetlands are in relationship to the proposed septic system area and other things on the property before submitting a final opinion to the ZBA.

**Arnold Wicklow CE (Map3, Lot 41):** Discussed accepting an Executory Interest for a \$3000 contribution toward the project: would like to see a draft of the conservation easement document, most specifically the use limitations and provisions, before asking BOS for approval. A Public Hearing will be necessary before expending money from the Conservation Fund for the interest in the property..

**Community Connections Project at the Elementary School:** Update from Pam, thought the project was put on hold due to the corona virus situation, the school hopes to continue with some of their related project plans and is very interested in promoting outdoor classroom work. The school was awarded a grant for outdoor classroom projects, and is looking for additional funds to expand on the project. Everyone agreed that if the project was to promote environmental education or enhance wildlife habitat we could contribute from our Conservation Fund, \$500 was suggested as a contribution, contingent upon receiving a project description and final vote of the commission.

**Story walk update:** Robin gave a brief update on the story walk project; the book received through the library was not felt to be appropriate, Robin and Kelly will look into finding an alternative.

### **Other Business:**

**Story book walk:**

Adjourned at 6:30 PM

Minutes by Hardwick