

Francestown Conservation Commission

Francestown, NH

Approved Minutes

February 6, 2017

Members present: Shuffleton, Crooker, Holmes, Hardwick, Fitzgerald, Heath, Freese

Meeting came to order 7:31 PM

New Business-

Invasive Plant mapping/management strategy- Kelly Marshall has been looking into this, but she was not in attendance tonight so no update.

Town Meeting Milfoil warrant articles- The cost of treatment has gone up a lot. Some members of the Lake Association are willing to contribute some money towards treatment. In the past, some members have also participated in physical removal. Brad Howell has informed that grant money coming from the state is likely to be less this year. It is estimated at \$7000 +/- The board will support the warrant articles.

Crotched Mountain easement issues- Hardwick and Paul Marshall went up to the old ski area, and at the top of the old Willett's trail a cabin has been constructed. There was also a shed constructed just below the cell tower on top of the mountain which 2 volunteers from Hancock dismantled and brought down to the base of the mountain. The Forest Society recommends that we have signage posted letting people know that this area is conservation land. The board decided signage would be a good idea, if only from a liability standpoint. Hardwick will inform the selectmen about these issues. Hardwick suggested it would be good to place a sign up after the shed is taken down to maybe prevent retaliation. Ie: "This cabin had to be removed as it is on conservation land" Heath suggested a letter be sent to the ski area informing them of the problem coming from the ski area affecting adjacent conservation land. Hardwick felt the letter should come from the Selectmen.

Duck Boxes- It might be worth it to go check them out. The farthest one does not have any water around it at this time.

Hikes- Winter tracking hike is scheduled for Sunday February 12th. The moonlight hike is scheduled for Saturday February 11th in the Dinsmore area and Heath will host an after hike gathering at his home.

Seedlings- The board decided to distribute seedlings to students at Francetown elementary school again this year. Hardwick will order the seedlings and will try for Highbush Cranberry.

Old Business-

Updated By-Laws- We need to schedule a public hearing.

Land Conservation Projects; Update on Brien property- The Brien property on Wilson Hill is scheduled for the closing on March 31st. We need to hold a public hearing before this. Freese suggested we combine public hearings for the By Laws and Brien Land Conservation Project. Hardwick agreed that was a good idea and we will schedule this for March 6, 2017.

News Articles-Marshall was going to try to put an article in the Francetown News

Trail Work; Shattuck- A time needs to be scheduled for this.

Town Website- Hardwick sent in some new info for the website

JHNS Program- Carbee is working with Martine Bohnsack on a presentation about vernal pools.

Announcements-

Hardwick informed the board that the Hampshire 100 donated \$100 to ConCom.

Minutes-

Freese motion to accept minutes of December 5, 2016 as amended. Shuffleton 2nd. Minutes approved as amended.

Crooker motion to adjourn. Freese 2nd. Meeting adjourned 8:50PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Holmes, Clerk