

## **Fracesttown Conservation Commission - FINAL**

**Monday Jan 7, 2019**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Members in attendance: Betsy Hardwick, Robin Haubrich, Don Crooker, Kelly Marshall, Pam Avery, James St. Jean, George Sanderson

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

Dec 3 2018 minutes were unanimously approved, as amended.

Oct 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

Nov 5 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

### Notices:

None

### New Business:

ZBA Application for Mountain Maintenance: After a detailed review of the application as submitted, Jim made a motion to support the plan as proposed, seconded by Pam. Betsy abstained with other members approving the motion.

Crotched Mountain Town Forest lot consolidation: Betsy explained how in the past, a lot consolidation was previously approved and implemented by the town, but sometime around 2005, the lots were separated again and the property tax cards are no longer accurate. Jamie Pike has agreed to have the lot lines corrected on tax maps and to get accurate information onto the tax cards. Additionally, the voters previously approved a further lot consolidation which was not implemented. This consolidation was approved at the 2005 town meeting, specifically to consolidate Map 4, lot 11 to lot 416. Steps will be taken with the planning board to implement this additional consolidation.

Betsy further reported that she is working to capture all of the details for each town conservation property on a single spreadsheet including key dates of acquisition, transfers, approval as a designated town forest, etc. The town forest designation is important as it provides for management by the conservation commission.

The conservation fund has received additional funds consisting of a \$5,000 bequest from the estate of Frank Hanchette, and \$10,423 in funds from the land use change tax. This provides for a current balance of \$50,226.05.

The commission is overdue in boundary maintenance and stewardship activities:

- Painting of boundaries for the Crotched Mountain town forest

- The boundaries of the Stewart Subdivision are currently very difficult to find, and furthermore given the shape of the property lines and adjacent gravel pit, individuals are likely unaware of the conservation status and may be driving vehicles on the property, or worse, excavating portions of the property by mistake. A surveyor may be required to do this effectively.
- The Joslin and Farrington roads on the town forest are in need of some maintenance work, possibly including water bars. That loop is somewhat accessible to a wide variety of walkers compared to the more difficult trails.
- The Dinsmore property is seeing off road/4x4 traffic from trucks (not ATVs) and this is creating very large ruts and causing a lot of destruction. Some research is needed to determine where we can put gates or potentially boulders to deter or block this traffic. In the short term, we could potentially put up a rope and sign. Pam will do some work on a rope/sign.
- The Wharton Town forest is also in need of boundary markers, and it needs a new name.
- Betsy will reach out to parties who may be able to assist in gates or boundary marking.

#### Old Business:

Easement monitoring reports: no updates

The website link has been repaired.

No further updates on the snow removal plan.

#### Other:

We have an option to establish a collection box for lead fishing tackle and install it at the transfer station. Staff can then dispose of the lead alongside other similar materials. Kelly will contact the transfer station committee to discuss next steps to implement this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm

Submitted by Jim St. Jean