
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – May 1, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Members present: Betsy Hardwick, Polly Freese, BJ Carbee, Karen Fitzgerald, Kelly Marshall, George Sanderson, Don Crooker, and Scot Heath.

Members absent: Don Shuffleton, Kris Holmes

Members of the public in attendance: None.

New Business:

Property Issues: A. Police Chief Douglas reported hikers found four campers by the cell tower-had a campfire going. Fire Department went to the site and extinguished the fire. Chief Douglas also indicated the Fire Dept. would return to dismantle any fire pits. Discussion followed regarding the removal of buildings and debris from town property on the mountain, and whether signs and/or information kiosk would be helpful in managing the property.

B. Reports of a Jeep, four wheelers, and dirt bikes going through Dinsmore. Karen mentioned a new washout/erosion along the access right-of-way. Betsy suggested a kiosk be installed on the town property. George mentioned he has one he could donate. Scot is to get “No wheeled vehicles” signs as soon as possible and install.

Also Dinsmore...Fire Dept. conducted rescue practice in the area of the ledges. Discussion followed. It was noted advance notice from the Fire Dept. would be appreciated in the future.

It was mentioned that perhaps we should take the Fire and Police Depts. through the Town Forests/conservation areas to introduce them to the properties.

C. Hemlock Management. Town Forester Ron K. to meet with us. To be scheduled.

D. Brief discussion of Con Com goals and priorities. More emphasis on property management and maintenance.

E. Brief discussion regarding the Wharton Town Forest. We need to conduct a site walk and consider management options.

Old Business:

---Tiedt/Ellen Hill CE. On hold for now. Isabella Hill has decided she doesn't want to swap land with them.

---Invasive Plant Mapping/Management Strategy. Still trying to set date with Doug Cygan.

---Tree seedlings available 5/5. To be distributed at the elementary school the following week.

---Trail work. Needs to be scheduled.

Notices and Announcements:

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Various discussions regarding attendees and workshops at Saving Special Places; age-friendly events; agri-tourism workshop.

Correspondence:

N/A.

Minutes:

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as amended.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED MONDAY 7/10/2017