

Francestown Conservation Commission
Francestown, NH
Approved Minutes

February 5, 2018

Members Present: Haubrich, Shuffleton, Holmes, Hardwick, Freese, Heath, Marshall, Crooker, Sanderson, StJean

Others in attendance: Jamie French from CLD/Fuss & O'Neill

Meeting came to order 7:02 PM

New Business-

Jamie French from CLD/Fuss & O'Neill presented the plan for the So. New Boston Rd bridge project. This is slated to begin in summer of 2019 at a cost of 1.3 million. The existing structure is in poor condition and needs a full replacement. The 100 year flood level submerges the girders by 10 inches and over tops the road. The new proposal is for an 85 foot span and it will need to be raised 1 foot above the current height due to the longer span. This will be a steel bridge instead of concrete. The plan allows the water to flow through more naturally and tries to avoid the stream coming up against the abutment. The new plan should prevent scouring. A 60 foot span was considered, but would need to be raised even more and would require deeper foundations and more \$. There will be a 900 Sq ft permanent wetland impact. The Natural Heritage Area has been consulted and turtles and the black river snake have been identified as living in this area. "Snake friendly" erosion controls will be used and NH Fish & Game will be involved to protect the turtles and snakes. All work will be done within the roadway easement; the road will not be widened. During the project, the roadway easement may extend to include the slope which could overlap the conservation easement. Hardwick felt we could allow the work to be done but then replant with native vegetation. There is grant money available for replanting along the river. Hardwick will forward info to Jamie in the Town Office about a woman (MS Willow) who can help co-ordinate this program. Heath questioned the road easement overlapping the conservation easement and what consequences there might be if the new slope causes the road easement to permanently overlap the conservation easement. The permanent road easement proposed for the area of the conservation easement could present conflict. Hardwick will check with the planning board about this. Jamie French asked if ConCom would send a letter of support to include with the application. Hardwick said we usually do this; we just need to address the conservation easement and proceed properly according to how it is written. Hardwick will check on this and when it is clarified, will email a letter of support to Jamie French.

Hoey- Poor Farm Rd. - ZBA applications- Heath asked if we had ever presented our concerns about this project to the ZBA. Hardwick offered to send a letter to the ZBA so they have in writing our concerns and recommendations previously submitted to the Planning Board. Mr. Hoey is asking the ZBA to approve a special exception to construct a driveway over steep slopes and over wetlands. The wetlands were not particularly high value/functional wetlands, but the clear cutting made it even less value/functional.

Hikes- The Winter Tracking Hike is scheduled for Sunday February 18th at 1:00 PM in the Dinsmore area, depending on conditions. Participants should meet at the Town Hall.

The Full Moon/ Blue Moon Hike is tentatively scheduled for Friday March 30th. Time TBA

Chad Mills- His plan needs to go to the ZBA.

Files- May be pursued at our March meeting.

Old Business-

Update on Proposed Land Protection Project- Heath has talked to the landowner but no decision has been made. This will be deferred until spring.

Announcements-

Milfoil articles will now be included in the Town Operating Budget, but not under the Conservation Funds budget. The Milfoil articles will have their own budget. The new treatment is up to 95% effective, treatment is repeated the following year with a follow up every other year. This will just be for Scoby Pond. Lake Host handles Pleasant Pond.

Minutes-

Minutes of February 6, 2017- Heath moved to accept minutes of Feb 6, 2017 as written. Marshall 2nd. All in favor. Minutes approved.

Minutes of January 8, 2018- Heath moved to accept minutes of January 8, 2018 as written. Freese 2nd. All in favor. Minutes approved.

Shuffleton motion to adjourn. Crooker 2nd.

Meeting adjourned 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Holmes