



## **Mason Conservation Commission Minutes**

February 11, 2009 7:00 pm to pm

Attendees: Bob Larochelle, Liz Fletcher, Paula Babel, Bob Dillberger, Anna Fiorello, Ann Moser, Stu Sherman

Voted unanimously to accept Jan. 2009 minutes.

Reviewed work needed to clear remaining trees from RR trail. Will use this work to provide additional matching for previous Trails Bureau grant applied to Black Brook bridge replacement. Bob L. will consolidate reports from various members about trail sections.

Discussed how volunteer post-storm clean-up labor should be used. It can be applied as a match to FEMA grant for town or as match for Trails Bureau grant for CC. Further discussions with Chris Guiry and Dave Cook are needed to decide.

Reminded ourselves that RR trail signs (with notice about wheeled vehicle use) need replacement come Spring. Most are gone. Liz also noted that not all crossing gates have reflectors. Should we arrange to add them where needed?

Discussed lease of Potter land to Eric Anderson. Reviewed wording of proposed warrant article to allow lease:

*To see if the Town will vote to allow Eric Anderson to lease an abutting 2 acre peice of land from the Mason Con Comm. The lease would be used for pasture, and a 5 year lease with option for renewal.*

Bob D. expressed a concern, echoed by others, that without a management plan it's still unclear whether this action is in our best interests at this time. We have yet to establish a vision for this land and it seems that going forward with the lease at this time relinquishes a level of control we would have difficulty reclaiming. It seems a wiser approach is to finish our natural resources inventory, then develop a management plan, and only then (if warranted) consider leases and other such activities.

Following this discussion, Bob D. moved that the Commission postpone consideration of this lease until such time as a natural resources inventory and management plan are complete. Anna seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bob L. contacted Eric by phone to let him know of the Commission's decision.

Decided to form a subcommittee to pursue the natural resources inventory and management plan. Bob D., Liz, and Anna volunteered. Bob D. will chair. Liz will contact SWRPC about their regional natural resources inventory to get us started. Bob D. will contact ROST folks to get ideas for other ways to make progress.

Met with Mark Archambault (NRWA) and Lynn McCann (Mason Health Officer) about next steps for groundwater reclassification. Reviewed draft of notification letter to relevant non-residential land owners. Will revise letter so it can be sent to town offices (near elementary school well) as well as relevant businesses (Lynn observed that town offices, although not commercial, are similar to businesses in their potential impact on groundwater). Lynn let us know that she can't act without the say-so of the Selectmen, but we need to involve them anyway so that shouldn't be a problem. Tentative date to meet with Selectmen is 3/24 (4/14 if this doesn't work out). Also, last week in April seems a good choice for inspection training from Pierce Rigrod.

Met with Barbara DeVore about invasive insects program to be presented in the town hall, 2/17, 7:30 PM.

Bob D. will write a letter to the Grapevine explaining the warrant article related to SB 381, to aide understanding prior to town meeting.

Discussed allowing Eric Anderson to clear trails of ice-downed trees on conservation land on G-83 in exchange for the firewood. Liz moved to allow it. Bob D. seconded. Passed unanimously.

Discussed maple tapping on Scott Hastings Memorial Land by Jonathon Sawyer. Decided to postpone until management plan is written and also because extent of ice storm damage is unknown.

Decided to hold March meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> (town meeting conflicts on usual date, the 11<sup>th</sup>).

Bob D. moved that we pay \$200 to NHACC for annual dues. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Reviewed letter from Div. of Parks & Recreation describing a new self-auditing program for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) sites relevant for the RR trail. Bob D. will download relevant form from the Web site and investigate.