



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes

Dec. 8, 2010
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

In Attendance

- Rob Doyle
- Bob Larochele
- Barbara Devore
- Liz Fletcher
- Ann Moser
- Anna Faiello

Voted unanimously to accept the Nov. minutes.

Dave Baker discussed access to a water hole at the pond downhill from Bronson's house. Liz had concerns about easy access for vandals. Dave pointed out there is no place to hide as the clearing is totally visible from the road. We discussed putting cables across the entrances to the pond and the former house. Barbara will discuss possible donation or sale of gates with Ron Youngblood. There was concern about erosion from the dirt access road getting into the pond. Dave had put a log across with a few hay bales. A more permanent solution would be riprap where the road ends at the pond edge. Dave agreed to put down some "9 inch minus" stone that he has. Dave also offered to put up some cables.

Dave presented his list of accomplishments in the haying and prep work on Bronson's land. (I will attach his list when he emails it). The 23.5 hours he worked was more than double what the hay lease stipulated.

Meeting with Scot & Joni MacGarvey and their forester Lyle Brundige, with Bill Downs as commission advisor. Liz read from the forest plan which recommended very minimal cutting. The scope has now changed since the 2008 ice storm. Apparently the forest plan does not allow for a financially feasible logging operation. A pulp operation would not generate enough cash flow to cover the operation. They would like to do a biomass operation to create a more healthy forest. Bill recommended marking the standing timber to keep a decent basal area. Bill had forested and conventionally logged E-1 in 1998 (60,610 bd. ft.).

The MacGarvey's mentioned wanting to clear cut a field behind their house that would extend into the conservation easement. We agreed that was allowed under the conservation easement, as long as the soils were good. Bill checked the soils map and found they were 143 soils, appropriate for fields. This would add diversity of habitat. The MacGarveys also mentioned they had some wild rhododendron behind the stone wall near their driveway.

Next step – Lyle will meet with Bill and discuss the strategy before marking. We greatly appreciate Bill's help in this matter. We will send him a thank-you letter.

Rob & Bob did boundary monitoring at Grovesteens (Ted Stewart). Liz filled out the LCIP monitoring report.

Regarding the boundary monitoring of parcel B-17-1 Liz and Bob did on Sunday Dec. 5th, the Commission collectively decided to send a letter to Mark Brackett regarding his cordwood pile over the southern boundary line.

Barbara helped the Forestry commission organize a meeting set for Dec. 16th at 6:30 pm to discuss the invasive remediation strategy and contribution of funds to support for the effort.

Buddy Doherty did not show up for his 8:15 agenda slot so Barbara presented information on the Hillsborough County Prison worker program which has a long list of accomplishments including invasive plant remediation. They come out with an 8-10 man crew with a law enforcement supervisor. Town must provide tools and a meal. They can only work on town

lands and buildings. (Barbara will email me her notes). The commission is interested in this option. Whatever we decide, we will need to consult selectmen and police dept. first. Potential projects are invasive plant removal, replacing decking on Jackson Road trestle.

Discussed Briggs Road pond lowering operation. Rob Doyle believes it is a failure from his recent observations.

Discussed a request for 3 geocaches in Florence Roberts Forest by Carl Selner (978-386-0269). No member had any objections. Bob L. will follow up.

We received an invitation to the Eagle Scout awards dinner on Dec. 22nd at 6:30 pm at the Mason Elem. School. I emailed the response (see below).

From: Larochelle, Bob
Sent: Wednesday, December 08, 2010 9:27 PM
To: nuttinghill
Subject: Invitation

Joe,

Thanks for sending the invitation to the awards dinner. We did an informal roll call and expect that 6 commission members will attend.

Bob L

Barbara's notes on the prisoner work program:

Prisoners Working on Town Projects

Supervisor Tony Sawyer's number -- 315-4276

Hillsborough County Prison Work Program
NOT NH State Prison Program

Worked in all Hillsborough County towns except
Sharon

Mason moved police station

54 cemeteries in Weare worked on half

Antrim a lot of work

Temple painted fence around town Common

Amherst rd agent Japanese knotweed

8-10 men and 1 supervisor

no guns

tools need to be provided

mid-day meal and beverages need to be available ~ school already committed

Barry welcome to contact any police chief except in Sharon for reviews

prisoners can work on town land only

Will citizens loan tools? Will we have to buy?

We need to prepare a list of projects.