



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes

May 11, 2011
7:00 pm to 11:00 pm

In Attendance

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

Voted unanimously to accept April minutes.

Discussed with Dennis Graham the lease for property on Old Ashby Rd. The Commission agreed that a \$50 (12.5%) increase is sufficient, considering that Dennis pays the property tax, and has done and continues to do maintenance on the property. Dennis said that amount is reasonable. Largest remaining maintenance item is the boiler which is starting to leak water. Dennis has priced boilers and found a good quality one can be had for \$2,000 not including installation, \$4,800 with installation. As per the lease agreement, the Commission (lessor) will cover the boiler replacement cost. Also agreed that Dennis will present receipts for materials purchased for maintenance and repair, and keep track of hours spent so we can more accurately track his contribution. He also agreed to obtain at least three bids for a replacement boiler.

Met with Dave Baker to discuss the use of wood ash as a soil nutrient on the Greenville Rd. hay fields as a recycled alternative to lime (the ash is a byproduct of wood-fired electricity production). Dave had met with Resource Management Inc., a commercial vendor of the product to gather information. Dave believes an application of lime or this product is overdue. Dave will cover the cost, but needs our permission as landowners. We agreed to go ahead but the agreement mentions a "Product Label and Use Information" which we don't have and need to review before signing the agreement.

We also notified Dave of the new requirements for payments related to the hay lease as stipulated by the auditor. However, the lease as approved by town counsel explicitly states that labor may be considered in setting the final lease price. It was suggested we should have the lease and an itemized account of Dave's labor and costs reviewed by the auditor and make sure he/she saw the relevant passages in the lease and interpreted the situation accurately. Liz moved that Dave raise this question with Barbara Milkovitz, given that Dave's the one being asked to cut a check (in apparent contradiction to the lease terms). Barbara seconded. Passed unanimously.

Finally, Dave agreed to wrap hardware cloth (supplied by Barbara) around some beaver-threatened oak trees on the Potter land on Greenville Rd.

Bill Downs filed (via e-mail) a report of his review of planned timber harvesting along Spaulding Brook on the Fifield easement where basal area is limited along the stream. His opinion is that the trees marked for cutting are within the limits stipulated by the easement.

Bob L. & Bob D. reported on their inspection of the Jackson Rd. RR bridge. If we replace 10 of the ties, the remainder should be in good shape. Covering the surface planking of some sort is likely just to accelerate rot in the underlying structure.

Agreed to invite the Schimke's to a meeting to discuss the growing beaver problem on the Cliff Hastings cons. land. It might be that a beaver deceiver is called for.

Agree to take a walk on the Fifield easement on May 22 at 10 AM to survey the results of recent logging operations. There's a concern that logging is obliterating the trail system, reducing the value of the easement to the public.

Bob D. will make another call to the LGC to get clarification about "the conservation fund" as it relates to relevant RSA's.

Liz moved we direct the town treasurer to reimburse Bob Larochelle for \$90.25 for the reproduction costs of the voter's guide (aka fact sheet) made available to voters at Town Meeting 2011. The letter so directing will explain the results of research that justifies this expense. Bob L. seconded. Passed unanimously.

Reminder to Bob D: order a copy of "Good Forestry" (authorized at last month's meeting).

Bob D. moved that we direct the town treasurer to reimburse Barbara Devore (P.O. Box 1010, Mason, NH) \$940.00 for the Eyes on Owls and Salamanders public education programs (part of the Florence Roberts Memorial Series). This expense is covered by a generous donation to the conservation fund, not by tax dollars. Bob L. seconded. Passed unanimously.