



## **Mason Conservation Commission Draft Minutes**

June 8, 2011  
7:00 pm to 11:15 pm

### **In Attendance**

- Bob Dillberger
- Bob Larochele
- Barbara Devore
- Liz Fletcher
- Ann Moser
- Anna Faiello

### Site visit to Bronson's with Dave Baker

Members Present: Bob Dillberger, Barbara DeVore, Anna Faiello, Liz Fletcher, Ann Moser

We met at Bronson's view and Dave showed us where the wood ash stockpile would be placed. It's more than 100 feet from the road and property boundaries as required in the wood ash guidelines 0, and it appears to be more than 300 feet from private wells (Dave's, Barbara Currier's would be the closest).

Tree growth is restricting and eliminating the best view in town. The Commission will contact Bill Downs for an assessment of potential cutting to improve the skyline.

Next we visited the proposed dredging site, at the pond on Bronson's homestead near Greenville Road where the Fire Dept had constructed an access road. As Fire Chief, Dave would like to dredge the part of this pond closest to the road to a depth of 6 to 8 feet for a water source. There is none near roads in this part of town. He plans to ask Eric Anderson to use his excavator, reaching out from the pond bank as far as possible. This would be a dredged area no more than 20 feet wide and 80 feet long. The work would be done in August when water tables are lowest. Since the pond bank is solid ground (not wetland) Commission members did not have a problem with this. The dredged material would be used to fill holes in the hayfields once it has dried, or to cover the banking near Bronson's homestead. Dave presented a page on wetlands permits quoting RSA 482:A-3, IV which stated that cleaning out of legally constructed fire ponds may be done without a permit. Apparently Bronson had dug out this pond years ago from a corner of the larger wetland. Liz will check with the Wetlands Bureau to see if this meets the no-permit required statute.

Then we visited Bronson's former homesite where Scouts have done a great job spreading and seeding loam to make the rough ground smooth and clear. Grass shoots are coming up. However, at the far end of the driveway loop we noticed some trash and debris that may be fresh dumping, we had not seen it before. Access control is necessary to this site. Dave suggested asking the highway dept to place a boulder at the lower access to allow for horses or snowmobiles to pass but not vehicles. At the upper access where most driving is occurring there are 2 large trees near the road where a cable could be placed. A reflective plastic pipe should be placed over the cable for safety. Bob Dillberger had seen such things at Beaver Brook and he will look more closely next time he's there.

### Back at the Mann House

Bob L signed the Wood ash (substitute for lime) agreement for Dave Baker.

Regarding the discussion of Dennis Graham's Lease agreement it was decided to update Exhibit A to reflect conditions as of June 8<sup>th</sup> 2011. Rent is raised to \$450 per month. The Commission voted unanimously to accept the revised lease. Dennis was in agreement as well. Dennis has been living in the A-frame since 1989. Now the lease renewal is ready to be sent on to Selectmen.

Bob D. toured the RR trail and found an 8" maple tree across the trail north of Depot Road which could present a danger. He also found trash dumped just south of Coyne Lane. Bob L. will send an email to Highway Dept. He noted a knotweed infestation centered north and south of Jackson Road. Barbara D. assured the Commission Chris Guiry informed her the Forestry Committee appointed him to locate and hire a licensed herbicide applicator to deal with invasives. Bob D. suggested we send a reminder letter to the Forestry Committee to get the process rolling sooner rather than later mentioning the new knotweed infestation. Bob D. will draft the letter. Barbara D. will call Curt Dunn to read the letter since he doesn't have email. Barbara D. will also forward an email from ROST regarding an invasive plant seminar in Amherst on June 23 by Doug Cygan, who presented the excellent program in Mason two years ago. She will make the info available to forestry committee.

Barbara D. will send a second letter to the supervisor of the county prison workers' program so hopefully free labor may become available for Mason later this year.

Discussed list of items for meeting with Selectmen on July 26<sup>th</sup>. NRI is the #1 topic. Could include easement monitoring, Fifield easement agreement and LCHIP grant application for parcel B-22. Town Hall may be a better venue for the meeting because of all the maps to display.

Discussed the Selectmen's May 25 letter refusing to reimburse for the Town Meeting handout. (\$90.25) That letter recommended contacting the Secretary of State and Dept of Revenue Administration. Bob Dillberger had contacted the DRA on June 2. Shelley Gerlarneau, DRA Municipal Accounts Advisor, reviewed the handout and replied that it was an appropriate use of conservation funds. We were unsure if the Secretary of State had oversight of disbursement of conservation funds, but Liz agreed to ask that office about this issue. A letter should be sent to Selectmen summarizing results of our inquiries. Members agreed that the request for \$90.25 reimbursement for handout copying costs should be re-submitted to the Town Treasurer along with other bills to be paid.

Discussed request for Cub Scout projects from Don Hodges. Given the young age of children and time restrictions, Barbara suggested they could clear fallen sticks and branches from Florence Roberts Forest trail. Ann suggested they could identify different trees in the forest and make a booklet of leaves from them."

Mike Bromberg cannot meet with Commission until after August. Barbara will advise him to download the Conservation Lands map from Mason's Unofficial website, [www.mason-nh.com](http://www.mason-nh.com).

Discussed Bronson Potter Homestead reclamation project. Bob L. will look at the tax warrant and find out if owners are ok with showing trails which veer off Bronsons land to the public lands. Will also contact Deb Morrison to find out trail names. The Commission would like to order more signs for the Bronson Homestead, Bronson South (Mirriam Hill Road), Bronson View, and Spaulding Brook East side from the sign maker. Volume pricing will reduce costs significantly.

Discussed Liz's conversation with Ian McSweeney. Bob Dillberger and Andre Aho could get parcels on the list for Wetlands Reserve Program (USDA grants). If B-3 & Lucy Laurence (L-36) are designated as Conservation lots it would greatly enhance the attractiveness of the project.

Discussed mission statement. Everyone was satisfied with Bob D.'s idea. Bob L. will ask Barbara if we can make changes ourselves and how the emails will be directed.

Liz to call Marc Calderan to follow up on Spaulding Brook bridge repairs.

Voted unanimously to reimburse Bob D for \$25 for Good Forestry in the Granite State for the Commission library from the general Conservation fund.

Voted unanimously to pay Eric Anderson \$600 for 40 cubic yards of screened loam for Bronson Potter Homestead trail head (Nick Calderan Eagle Scout project) from general Conservation Fund.