



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes – D R A F T

August 10, 2011
7:00 pm to 10:30 pm

In Attendance

- Bob Dillberger
- Barbara Devore
- Rob Doyle
- Anna Faello
- Cynthia Hajjar
- Liz Fletcher
- Anne Moser

Voted unanimously to accept July minutes.

Met with snowmobile club (Wilton Winter Wanderers) to discuss repairs to the Jackson Rd. RR trestle bridge. The club volunteered their free labor and presented some cost estimates for materials to repair the bridge, considering two options, one using 8x12 cross ties (equivalent to current ties) at \$7,872 and the other using 8x8 timbers at \$4,920. The club's interest in doing the work is contingent upon our agreeing to widen the span to 10' to allow their large trail groomer to pass. They also recommended planking over the span (regardless of underpinnings chosen) with 2x6 pressure-treated lumber.

Collectively, we discussed various options, including Buddy Dougherty's suggestion of a preformed concrete slab in place of a wooden surface, the main advantages being cost (potentially cheaper to buy and less labor-intensive to install) and longevity. Bob D. and others expressed concern over the aesthetics of this approach, however (considering that Jackson Rd. is a scenic road).

After some discussion, it was agreed that a joint site visit is needed to better consider the alternatives proposed. Agreed to meet at the bridge at 9 A.M. on Saturday 8/27 to review options.

Barbara presented an update on plans for using prison labor next week to begin invasive plant removal. We reviewed the various logistics for the week and agreed on a list of tasks in priority order (contact Barbara for the list). Bob D. will purchase 9 pr. gloves, 100 industrial-strength bags, and plastic tarping Friday 8/12 on account at County Stores, Milford and deliver to Barbara's Valley Rd. home. Liz, Rob, and Anne volunteered various tools. It was also agreed that Barbara will investigate renting a weed wrench for the work, as this tool could prove quite useful.

As a follow-on to the prison crew work, Rob presented an extensive list of regional licensed herbicide applicators. He will contact some of the local contractors to request estimates for knot weed eradication on the railroad trail. We'll use these estimates to extrapolate overall costs for broader applications.

Met with Mike Bromberg to discuss his proposed Mason mapping project. Mike presented a draft of the suggested map and discussed options for content, printing, distribution, and funding. Mike projects that full-color printing would cost \$1,000 for 2,000 copies, and he would like to receive \$1,000 for his time. He proposed 3 ways for possible funding:

1. Funds from town departments (Cons. Com., Fire, Historic, Selectmen), as the map could show water holes and historic sites as well as conservation land and trails,
2. Funds from advertisers (local businesses that would be located on the map with their ads printed on it), or
3. Funding by map purchasers at \$1-2 per copy.

At this point, Mike is interested in (1) knowing if the CC will support the project financially and (2) locating information sources to fill in gaps in local data (his maps start from the same data source as our NRI and other maps: UNH GRANIT). Agreed to add an item to next month's agenda to discuss the project in detail.

Discussed plans for Mason's Old Home Day. We'll have two tables with various info. Bob L. will bring his large town map (always a crowd-pleaser) and will lead a hike on the Florence Roberts Forest trail. After discussion, we agreed this hike is of moderate difficulty and probably not good for small children or poorly-shod folk. So Liz volunteered to lead a simultaneous stroll on the Cliff Hastings Nature Trail so attendees have a choice of difficulty and time commitment.

Liz reported that mammoth (4-foot) land screws and cable have been acquired for anchoring the trail bridge over Spaulding Brook. A 2-inch socket is needed for installation, though, so they're not installed yet. Liz will submit a bill for the materials in the near future.

Finally, Barbara raised the issue of a possible commercial garage at Charlotte Hastings' former home, as indicated by the sign observed out front. Liz agreed to take a photo of the sign and draft a letter to the Selectmen on this issue. We are concerned because Walker Brook borders this property quite close to the site.

No bills to pay this month. (A bill received from Shaw's was determined to be a duplicate of one already paid.)