



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes – D R A F T

Sept 14, 2011
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

In Attendance

- Bob Dillberger
- Barbara Devore
- Rob Doyle
- Anna Faello
- Liz Fletcher
- Bob Larochelle

Voted unanimously to accept Aug. minutes.

Met with Bill Downs at the overlook on Greenville Rd. to discuss options for restoring/preserving the view. Voted unanimously to engage Bill to do an inventory of standing timber, the goal being to determine if a commercial cut is possible. Bill will prepare an agreement for the work. If the resulting cut makes money, Bill requests a 15% commission. If the cut isn't a money-maker, there's no charge.

Discussed options for Jackson Rd. RR bridge repair. Bob D. would like us to more-seriously consider a wooden surface for its aesthetic appeal. Dennis Labombard will look at the steel I-beams next week; he's most concerned about their integrity and our plans may be moot, depending on his report. We can't make any decision until we receive Dennis's report.

Discussed dealing with flooding caused by beaver construction on Cliff Hasting's land. Liz found plans for a fairly simple "beaver deceiver" on the Internet and it seems worthy of pursuing. Barbara will contact Fred Greenwood to find out what kind of culvert material they might have on hand.

Discussed effectiveness of our invasive plant control efforts. On south end of RR trail, knotweed was pulled and has not come back. However, where it was cut rather than uprooted, it's grown back with remarkable speed (aided by rainfall from two hurricanes). We'll continue to investigate hiring a licensed herbicide applicator.

Discussed Mike Bromberg's proposed trail mapping project. Because we're developing our own maps anyway (as part of the NRI project) and have no money to spare, we can't do anything to support Mike at this time. Barbara will send Mike a note explaining our position.

Decided not to pursue registering VAL sheets for RR property. Logistics of doing so are just too complex.

Liz proposed a thank-you note to Gary Elsworth for helping us with the cable work on the Spaulding Brook bridge. Liz will send a note.

Voted to pay the following bills:

- **Bob Dillberger for \$145.04** to reimburse the cost of supplies (plastic bags, plastic tarps, work gloves) used for invasive plant control.
- **Liz Fletcher for \$221.00** for two earth anchors and related materials to anchor the Spaulding Brook bridge.
- **Liz Fletcher for \$27.08** for miscellaneous hardware, also for anchoring the Spaulding Brook bridge.

Voted unanimously to transfer money from the Conservation General Fund to the town general fund for other invasive plant control costs charged at County Stores by the CC: **\$188.93 for 5 boxes of contractor bags and 2 rakes, and \$29.59 for black plating landscaping.**

Voted to accept a donation of clean fill (exact amount TBD) from Bob Dillberger to use for fill on the Potter lands.

CC hosted a table at Mason Old Home Day, with two hikes offered.

