



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes – D R A F T

Dec. 14, 2011
7:00 pm to 10:30 pm

In Attendance

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

Voted unanimously to accept Dec. minutes.

Jenny Snyder presented a revised deed. Discussed blocking access. PSNH prefers to do this. Chief Hutchins would like a gate. We discussed the option of going to a town meeting vote rather than letting this be a Conservation decision. Right now there is no license or easement at all on the land (since B & M no longer has ownership).

Liz moved we refer to the Selectmen the question of an easement to be granted to PSNH for the right-of-way on town-owned conservation land. Bob D. seconded. Passed unanimously. Also Bob D. moved we request that PSNH install a gate on the west side of Wilton Rd. where vehicles currently have illegal access to the RR trail. Liz seconded. Passed unanimously. Ms. Snyder said they do this at PSNH expense as a matter of course, with a double-lock system, a set of keys provided to police and fire depts.

Bill Downs reported on his inventory of a potential logging operation to preserve the Greenville Rd. view. Says there's about 70MBF of marketable timber over approx. 14 ac. Most is small-diameter trees, best for chips. Bill recommended that if we proceed with the cut now, we develop a 5-7 year maintenance schedule to keep it cut back. Bill suggests we try to sell the wood first, but it's unclear if it's commercially attractive. Bob D. asked about reclaiming some of the area as grassland. Bill estimates maybe 1/3 could be converted to field. The Commission decided that now that the area has been marked, we should go back for a second look to discuss options. Dave Baker expressed concern about clearcutting the area, saying the result could be unsightly. In response, Bill suggested that the cut area could yield valuable wildlife habitat if properly managed. Agreed to meet Sat. 12/17 at 2:00 P.M. at the bench to take a look.

Met with Dennis Graham to discuss boiler replacement at the A-frame on Old Ashby Rd. Dennis previously delivered via e-mail three estimates he collected. Liz moved we accept the bid from Country Oil Burner for \$3,900. (Details attached.) Passed unanimously. Bob D. moved we authorize the Treasurer to write a check to Country Oil Burner Service in the amount of \$1,900 as a down payment, the money to come from the 135 Old Ashby Rd. account. Dennis will contact Ken Wilson to arrange required inspections. It was mentioned that the Commission, as landlord, should apply for the necessary permit. Liz will contact Ken about this.

Met with Dave Baker regarding financial matters related to haying and otherwise maintaining the field on Greenville Rd. and trails on the Potter homestead land. Dave submitted a bill for \$942.50 for services and materials. The lease agreement caps our payment at \$600.00. Voted unanimously to authorize the Treasurer to write a check for \$600.00 to Dave Baker (who will then write us a check for \$600.00 for the lease payment), money to come from the General Conservation Fund.

Also renewed the hay lease with Dave for another year.

Reviewed documents received from Mr. & Mrs. Shane Robinson of Valley Rd., a subdivision plan with wetland soils delineated and a letter. After reviewing these documents, aerial photos, and notes from our site visit, we (excepting Barbara who recused herself as an abutter) agreed this matter is best referred to NHDES. Liz will download the necessary forms. Bob L will send letter informing Robinson's.

Liz reported on the status of applying for a Trails Bureau grant to repair the Jackson Rd. RR trail bridge. Apparently, a new requirement is review by NH Div. of Historical Resources. Liz feels this will not be a roadblock. Also received a bid of \$4,800 from D. Kuusisto for painting the steel beams. We'll use this estimate in applying for the grant. We need the Selectmen's endorsement, so Barbara will request a slot on their Jan. 10 agenda to discuss this item.

Reviewed what appears to be a scenic road violation by the Mason highway dept. on Jackson Rd. Recent Stewart easement monitoring revealed that a stone wall was removed, trenches dug, and a tree removed, all

of which require prior approval by the Selectmen given Jackson Road's designation as a scenic road. Agreed to send a letter to the Selectment explaining our concerns, and agreed to add this to things to be discussed with them on Jan. 10.

Voted to reimburse Barbara Devore \$200 for the mountain lion program. Voted to reimburse Barbara Devore \$150 for the "spoon guy" program. Both amounts to come from the Conservation General Fund.

Bob D. volunteered to draft the annual report again. Bob L. will send him copies of all this year's minutes.

Per letter received today Cynthia Hajjar has consented to become an alternate member of the Conservation Commission. We agreed to ask the Selectmen to appoint Rob Doyle as a full member.