



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes – D R A F T

May 9, 2012
7:00 pm to 10:30 pm

In Attendance

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

Voted unanimously to accept April minutes with additions.

On Saturday May 5th Bob D., Bob L., Liz and Bill Downs flagged 3,000 board feet (about 17 trees) to be left out of the Bronson Potter view cutting. We agreed a 20 foot buffer will be marked on both sides of the horse trail located between Greenville road and the air strip, to be flagged with MANE club reps (Bob L to arrange this). A 40-50 foot buffer will be held around ponds with trees over 30 feet tall subject to possible removal. Bob L. will arrange a meeting with Dave Baker to establish and mark his boundaries before the cutting goes out to bid.

On April 15th Rob Doyle & Bob L cleared trails of fallen trees at Florence Roberts. Cub scouts followed up with additional trail work and clearing along the Valley Road frontage. While conducting forest projects the Scouts found a 5' diameter Red Oak!

The drug take back program collected 19 lbs of drugs! A second round is planned for Oct. 2012.

The informative "Button Up" program was presented to a small audience on April 30th.

The NRI on April 18th was well attended by residents from Mason and surrounding towns. Some valuable feedback was received.

The Marion Stoddard presentation is scheduled for June 7th.

The Moose Plate grant application for Jackson Road bridge repairs was submitted on April 28th. We won't know the outcome until the Governor's Executive counsel votes at the end of June.

Barbara Devore will ask local groups for letters of support for a possible Recreational Trails Grant for rail trail repairs.

George Schwenk presented his plans to donate the "Quarry" to the Conservation Commission along with a very fascinating history of the parcel. Commission collectively agreed to pursue the acquisition. Ian McSweeney (Russell Foundation) will research methods to protect the town from liability in the event the LLC cannot be transferred intact. A 501c3 would give George the tax benefits he is looking for. Taxes are \$300 per year. Title work and appraisal (which George must contract but not necessarily pay for) may be helpful before we approach the select board. Careful wording of the purchase transaction could make it more difficult to "just sell" the parcel for profit. Mention of the Boy Scouts in the wording could also help.

Barbara reminded us that Milford made the CC sell all quarries to reduce the insurance bill 20 years ago.

Ian suggested we contact state agencies about endangered species on and historical value of the quarry land. Either could make the land more attractive for town acquisition.

Discussed DES visit on May 24 to site of Robinson wetlands violation. Nothing for us to do, but it's good to stay in the loop. Bob L. will let them know we're available if they would like us to be present.

Discussed anonymous wetlands violation report received by way of the Selectmen and state DES. Agreed we need to take a look although NRI maps show no wetlands on the relevant property.

Discussed recent legislation related to required permission for disabled persons to use OPDMs on recreational trails. We cannot simply outlaw OHRV as is currently done on the RR trail (and other town land). Discussed some options for restrictions (which we are allowed to set): no faster than 3 mph, electric vehicles only, width, length, and weight restrictions, grade restrictions.

Barbara brought up the topic of invasive plant control once again. State is experimenting with repeated cutting to starve the roots. Barbara suggested we propose this approach to the school; they should be responsible for mowing the knotweed on their property (but make sure the cuttings aren't transported!).

Discussed PSNH appraisal for easement on RR trail property. Dick Rockwood says it's a purchase appraisal ("fee simple" value, according to the appraisal), not an easement appraisal. Bob L. will pass this information on to Eugenia at PSNH.

Voted to reimburse **Liz Fletcher** for postage related to grant applications in the amount of **\$23.15**.