



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes – D R A F T

June 13, 2012
7:00 pm to 10:30 pm

In Attendance

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

Voted unanimously to accept May minutes with corrections.

We reviewed the intent to cut forms and noticed a serious error on the form for Mat and Beth LeClair. The parcel numbers are incorrect. We believe the intended parcels are K-55,56 & 57, **NOT MAP G** as stated on the intent and DES forestry notification! We believe this should render these forms invalid!

We received documentation from DES for Robinson violation. All restoration must be done by June 29th!

Email from Diane Fitzpatrick confirmed that sale of the Milford "Queen Quarry" was not in any way affected by insurance concerns as had been mentioned in our May minutes.

We have tentatively scheduled Bronson View trail marking for Saturday June 30th at 9:30 am.

Knotweed problem at Black Brook bridge is presenting constant problems. Plastic covers keep blowing off. Steep banks are now infested. We discussed using staples, rocks and hardware cloth to hold in place. This could work on the banks as well. We do not want to use pesticides so close to the water. We also discussed approaching the Forestry Committee to combine our efforts to mitigate the problem on a town wide basis. This is too big and expensive for the Conservation Commission to tackle alone.

We voted unanimously to pay the annual bond payment for the Mitchell Brook land purchase (\$10,518.13).

We voted unanimously to reimburse Bob Larochelle for \$5.40 for checkered flagging to mark Bronson View trail buffer.

We voted unanimously to reimburse Liz Fletcher for \$5.95 for postage for Trails grant application.

We voted unanimously to reimburse Liz Fletcher for \$47.10 for (2) 18" penetrator earth anchors to reinstall the Bronson View Boy Scout bench.

Discussed with Ian McSweeney methods to build consensus and support for Quarry acquisition before meeting with the selectmen. Want to form a definitive course of action which speaks to the liability concerns.

Ian indicated that there is sufficient liability protection for Town lands through buildings & lands insurance as long as there is no fee charged for access to the property. Do we need a letter from an attorney or for the attorney to speak directly to the selectmen to bolster our claim of minimal danger to the town? Ian offered to write a letter to the selectmen stating the RSA's and specifics of his discussion with the Russell Foundation attorney.

Ian recommended doing a title search/opinion of title/optional unsigned title insurance policy before approaching select board. Ian uses Blackstone Title in Bedford, NH.

Forest Society (Brian Hotz) has expressed an interest in being the second layer of protection on the Quarry (in case there is no one interested in defending the land at a certain point in time). George needs to approach the Forest Society to expedite. Forest Society can do a baseline report before meeting with the selectmen which will take 2-3 months.

Ian recommended that George grant the easement first before pursuing the land gift. There is a significant tax benefit with this approach.

CC, George and Forest Society should write the easement together. He will email the FS easement template to facilitate collaboration on the final agreement.

Ian recommended CC keeping our money out of the process so not to adversely affect the tax benefits.

We also discussed easement verbiage such as "no motorized vehicles allowed without written permission from the town". That has recently become more complicated with recent ADA regulation changes. Bob D. volunteered to start research needed to create a town OPDMD policy. We also called out our wish to preserve the stone walls, especially on the roadside! There was also discussion about eventually consolidating the adjacent cons. land in the area and contacting owner of E-37 to gauge interest in purchase or easement.

Moose plate grant has been submitted. We agreed to allow the state to publicize the historic trestle.

Discussed use of beetles to control purple loosestrife in area of Route 124 to keep the infestation out of Walker Brook Gorge. An anonymous donation will fund the purchase of 1000 beetles.

NRI report, map printing and party will wait until after the Quarry acquisition process is finished.