



## **Mason Conservation Commission Minutes – D R A F T**

August 8, 2012  
7:00 pm to 10:30 pm

### **In Attendance**

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

Voted unanimously to accept July minutes as amended.

Re. Dave Baker clearing ditches along south end of RR trail, Rob expressed concern about inadvertently spreading knotweed. All agree a CC member should accompany Dave when doing this work to ensure knotweed isn't inadvertently moved elsewhere.

Rob reported on recent knotweed control efforts on same section of RR trail, saying our efforts appear to have some effect. At Black Brook bridge, Rob reports the infestation is roughly in two areas, 80x24 and 80x30. Agreed to meet at the bridge at 9 A.M. 8/25 (8/26 if rain or too hot) to cut & bag plants and to lay down black plastic sheeting. Bob D. will bring his gas-powered brush cutter. Barbara will get sufficient plastic sheeting at County Stores, Milford.

Re. Old Home Day, Barbara will supply invasive plant display and take-aways. Bob D. will bring the NRI maps.

Discussed talking with Barry about possible issues related to acquiring the Quarry LLC land. Agreed to focus on controlling vehicle access, not people access. Also considering town-wide policy for conservation lands limiting hours of access (dawn to dusk, except overlook which is popular for stargazing). Decided to invite Barry to our Sept. meeting.

Agreed to take no further action on timber operation underway on Jackson Rd. (K 10-2). Although the intent-to-cut form has several oddities, the Selectmen and CC have done due diligence on this matter. Agreed that, because of the extent of the cut, it would be prudent to walk the adjacent easement boundaries to check for timber trespass. Rob and Bob D. will walk the boundary at 5:30 8/15.

Met with George Schwenk and Ian McSweeney about the Quarry LLC land. Ian reports that SPNHF is happy to accept the easement. Would prefer that the easement deal and title transfer happen coincidentally as one deal. Also would prefer a single easement for the quarry parcel and adjacent parcels (that are already conservation land). Doing all at once is not a requirement, but helps ensure the deal will go through as currently planned.

George expressed concern about allowing public access given the nature of the area. Ian suggested we leave this issue unstated, giving us flexibility to go either way in the future. Might be good to explicitly include the right to post the land (to ensure we maintain this ability).

Ian presented tentative process and schedule for completing the work. Ian will e-mail a copy (attached) after meeting. Here's an overview:

Sept-Oct '12	Draft easement complete; present to Selectmen
Oct-Nov '12	Public hearing; present to town
Nov-Dec '12	Town accepts land gift from Quarry LLC
End of Dec '12	Easement & baseline documents complete
Mar '13	Warrant article at Town Meeting to authorize easement to SPNHF
ASAP '13	Selectmen sign easement; deal complete
ASAP '13	Update NRI maps, print them, and deliver NRI hard copies.

Discussed some specific items to include in the easement, including right to post the land and control access, no agriculture, forest management plan required, special considerations for historic areas in management plans, right to create trails, and others. Ian will incorporate these points in the draft easement and circulate for review.

Regarding costs (SPNHF estimates), those not covered elsewhere are:

1. Appraisal: \$3,000 (but can use one obtained by Quarry LLC). George S. must decide the manner in which he hopes to handle this cost (paid directly by him or paid by him with money from the CC).
2. Stewardship endowment to SPNHF: \$10,000 (payable in installments).

Above assumes Bob L. will blaze the boundaries (cost if not: \$2,000).

Discussed meeting with Selectmen next week to address timber tax on Greenville Rd. logging. Need to address this before filing intent-to-cut.

Re. PSNH easement, awaiting response from Dick Rockwood to our request for valuation so we can objectively evaluate the PSNH proposal. We're uncomfortable moving forward with this deal without our own appraisal.