



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes – D R A F T

Sept 12, 2012
7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

In Attendance

- Barbara Devore
- Bob Dillberger
- Anna Faiello
- Rob Doyle
- Bob Larochelle
- Ann Moser

Voted unanimously to accept Aug. minutes.

Met with Bill Downs regarding Greenville Rd. view-preserving timber operation. Says we've received the necessary wetlands crossing permit and Natural Heritage clearance. Bill spoke with Garland Lumber in N. Conway (someone he's worked with before) and got an estimate from them for \$9,739 (to be paid to, not by, the Commission). Garland requests a one year window to complete the operation. After discussion, Rob Doyle moved that we accept the bid of \$9,739.14 from Garland Lumber of N. Conway NH (see attached) and authorize same to proceed with the operation under the oversight of Bill Downs (Town Forester). Barbara seconded. Passed 5:1, Bob D. opposed.

Met with Ian McSweeney and Brian Hotz (SPNHF) regarding the Quarry LLC land deal. The topic tonight is final preparation for presenting the project to the Selectmen on 9/25. A question: Does BOS in Mason have authority to make land decisions without town meeting? George S. would like to expedite this project and requiring Town Meeting to complete is at odds with that goal. Ian suggested an approach: George could give the land gift ASAP with BOS approval and a public meeting, and make it clear that his intent is for an easement to be placed on the property (this statement of intent is not binding, but is persuasive). Discussing possible easement content, Brian suggested be fairly liberal with the easement (to accommodate unforeseen future needs), pointing out that activities can be restricted within the constraints of the easement depending on town policies, wishes, etc. (That is, management policies can be more restrictive than the easement but not more liberal.)

Key point of BOS meeting: ask them to (1) authorize land acceptance and (2) authorize/schedule a public meeting for this purpose. (I.e., this is this action we're requesting from the BOS). Ian suggests having the town attorney draft a written (non-binding) agreement for the BOS to sign.

Voted to pay Barbara Devore \$284.84 (to come from the general CC fund) to reimburse expenses for supplies used for knotweed control at Black Brook bridge.

Old Home Day was a success. CC sponsored first annual "Race to the Gazebo" (or at least near the gazebo) cosponsored with the Recreation Comm. Also publicized the upcoming drug take-back program (scheduled for Sept. 29), also publicized at the polls on voting day. The program is receiving strong public support.