



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

Oct. 8, 2014
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

In Attendance

- Bob Larochele
- Barbara Devore
- Ann Moser
- Liz Fletcher
- Bob Dillberger

Voted unanimously to accept Sept. minutes.

For the record Brian Hotz (SPNHF) say it's OK to replace stone culverts with modern pipes as part of upgrading the Mason Quarry access road.

Re. SPNHF response to comments on quarry easement from Attny. Drescher: SPNHF (via Mr. Hotz) agrees to all proposed changes except the clause stipulating that the Mason Conservation Commission has final say if the CC and SPNHF disagree over management practices. Mr. Hotz writes the SPNHF opinion that this unilateral power is inconsistent with SPNHF's management approach. After discussion, the CC agrees and also notes that the easement already includes a dispute resolution procedure that we feel is sufficient to deal with any such dispute, so further wording on this matter is unnecessary.

Voted unanimously to pay a bill from **Fieldstone Land Consulting for \$1,146.60**, money to come from the General Fund. Also received what appears to be a duplicate bill from them (last month's CC minutes show we voted to pay the bill). Need to check with Brenda to make sure the check went out.

Received a rent check for **\$1,350 from Dennis Graham, to be deposited in the Old Ashby Rd. fund.**

No update on when the state prison system will deliver new signs for the RR trail. Barbara will keep us posted.

Bob D. noted he neglected to prepare a design for the Mason Quarry ordinance signs as committed last month. He renewed his intent to get this done before our Nov. meeting.

Liz had previously flagged two possible locations for a RR trail gate at Scripps Ln. Agree the more southerly location is best, so we'll pursue installing a gate at that location.

Met with Dave Baker in his Fire Chief role to discuss gate installation at Scripps Ln. We reviewed our plans with Dave who agreed they look reasonable.

Dave brought up the annoying issue of wasps in the gate lock boxes and within the gate cross pieces. Bob D. suggested plugging the cross pieces (at least) with some spray foam insulation, which everybody thought was a good idea for a future weekend outing.

Anne reported on a visit with Dennis at the Old Ashby Rd. house. Some issues she noted:

1. Lots of invasive plants (bittersweet, autumn olive, multiflora rose) growing nearby.
2. The land around the pond is very wet. Is the pond properly draining to reduce risk of flood in a heavy rain?
3. A large oak within falling distance of the house appears unhealthy and might best be removed.
4. Similarly, a large pine is growing very near the house and might be good to remove.
5. Deck repairs are completed and look nice.
6. House might need painting.
7. Roof looks in good shape, but is showing its age.
8. Might be a good idea to replace shingles near grade with flashing or similar more-durable material.
9. Bathroom floor around toilet needs some vinyl tile work that Dennis isn't comfortable doing.

Agreed to invite Dennis to our next meeting to refresh our understanding about who does what in terms of repairs and improvements. We're maintaining the Old Ashby Rd. fund specifically to fund work on the property, so Dennis doesn't need to take on all this work himself.

Discussed recent research by Liz into options for winter road treatment. After much discussion, agreed to request time with Selectmen to make sure they're aware of conservation-related issues associated with road maintenance.