



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

Nov. 12, 2014
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

In Attendance

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

Voted unanimously to accept Oct. minutes.

Reviewed town treasurer's account of our recent instructions to organize our accounts. Everything looks fine, except the Old Ashby Rd. fund has more money than expected. We'll now be receiving monthly statements reporting account balances. These statements are available in the Conservation Commission file (retained in accord with RSA 33-A) for interested parties.

Met with Attny. Tom Quinn to discuss title issues related to accepting parcel C-27. The tax collector's deed (easily found) doesn't meet bar association standards and is thus insufficient for issuing title insurance. Mr. Quinn reports that going further back is turning out to be difficult (and expensive). After discussing possibilities and risks, we agreed it makes no economic sense to continue the investigation, especially given that the Selectmen have already agreed to accept the associated risk. Tom mentioned Lorainne Carson (Milford) as someone who might be interested in pursuing the investigation. Tom also suggesting seeing if we can locate the 1969 tax records. Non-payment of taxes in 1969 led to the assessor's deed of 1972. Barbara moved that we stop the research and accept the Crathern family gift. Passed unanimously. Tom will proceed to prepare the deed of gift.

Discussed "Addition to Conservation Easement Deed" which extends the Mason Quarry easement deed to include the Beck Lot, Jeffs Lot, and Downs Forest. Charlie Moser reported he found a few typos, but it's otherwise OK. Liz will let Brian Hotz (SPNHF) know of the needed corrections so he can prepare a corrected copy for signature at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Liz reported she's found the missing RR trail gate installed on state property in Greenville. It's our gate and we want it back. Agreed to ask the Winter Wanderers (1) if they know how/why it got moved and (2) if they have a suggestion for moving it back to Mason.

Liz reported Rob Doyle has agreed to be an alternate CC member, leaving us still in need of a full-time member to replace Rob.

Happy Birthday, Anna. Excellent cake, Barbara. Yum.

Reviewed plans from Fieldstone Excavation for the Mason Quarry parking area at Scripps Ln. Agreed to solicit bids for plans as written (once we get the related plans for the access road and culvert replacement), although we might scale back when it comes time for actual work. Do we really need 16 parking spaces? No. Agreed that eight is enough.

Met with Craig Birch regarding logging on L-8 & L-9. Some residents expressed concern about possible wetlands violations, and investigation suggests the landing is very close to the wetland. Craig described the measures he's taken to control potential erosion and protect the wetland, including using branches to control run-off and using culverts and bridge techniques for stream crossings. He also pointed out that most of the landing was pre-existing from a prior logging operation. So it seems like he's being responsible and applying best practices. No further action on our part seems warranted. However, Craig made a point of mentioning that Briggs Rd. had already been graded in a manner that directs silt into the wetland, a condition he's made some effort to correct as part of his site work.

Re. easement monitoring, Bob L. volunteered to review recent monitoring reports and suggest areas to focus on this year. In the meantime, Liz suggested we do at least the southern boundary of the Stewart easement due to a recent subdivision. Bob L. suggests we also do the north side of Spaulding Brook. And Liz suggests the boundary around the homestead given that the property is for sale.

The Bobs will meet at the Florence Roberts Forest on 11/22 to clear a large pine that's fallen across the trail, and to repaint trail blazes if weather permits.