



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

Dec. 10, 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 Nov. minutes.

Steve Wells (Jeds Ln.) attended as a prospective new member. Lundy Lewis (Greenville Rd.) is also interested in possible membership but is out of town and will attend a future meeting.

Liz moved we reimburse Ann Moser \$50.00 for attending the NHACC annual meeting, the money to come from the General Fund. Passed unanimously.

Met with Amos White and Al Williams (from Winter Wanderers) to discuss RR trail maintenance, specifically ditching and gate placement. To deal with knotweed disturbed during ditching, Amos recommend burying the ditched material surrounded above and below by black plastic. Best source of funding is probably a recreational trails program (RTP) grant from the NH Trails Bureau. Missed the filing deadline for this year, however. Also discussed the possibility of combining ditching with grading, the latter not being done in some years. The group thinks a larger combined project could be more attractive to RTP because of the greater benefit to more people. Amos gave a general estimate of \$2.50-\$3.00 per foot for ditching and grading, or \$1.00/ft. for grading only, to help guide our planning. The Bobs volunteered to traverse the length of the trail in spring 2015 to assess the work required.

Also discussed recovering our gate from the state land near Pratt Pond. Not clear what the proper procedure is for reclaiming town property that's been mistakenly appropriated by the state. We can use the gate on the RR Trail at the Wilton town line, or at the Milford line in Mitchell Brook. The Mitchell Brook site seems the more useful. (Also at Mitchell Brook, we need to adjust the gate installation to allow pedestrian and equestrian access. Al thinks it can be done by moving a nearby boulder and cutting some brush.)

Met with Dennis Graham to discuss the Old Ashby Rd. maintenance/inspection report from Will Wildes. Of chief concern is the electrical panel that still has some Edison base fuses. Will recommends we upgrade to circuit breakers ASAP. Barbara volunteered to investigate costs for this work. Also discussed Will's recommendation to paint the outside, but that work needs to wait until spring. Dennis mentioned he'll be paying his rent monthly for the first quarter of 2015 (which is what the lease says anyway).

Re. access road and parking at Mason Quarry, still waiting for updated plans from Fieldstone Excavation. Liz suggested we contact the owners of E-31 to discuss the possibility of crossing their land for direct access to the planned parking area, eliminating the need to upgrade the steeply sloped portion of Scripps Ln. Agreed to invite them to a future meeting (after the first of the year) for a chat.

Liz reports that the French land gift deed is finally ready to sign. Liz will mail a copy for signature tomorrow.

Bob L. and Bob D. visited the Florence Roberts Forest to remove the downed pine tree. While there, we walked the entire trail and did some general clearing and maintenance. We also surveyed a possible additional trail route along the base of the rock outcropping. Bob L. & Barbara presented this idea along with a few others to the Scouts as possible future projects.

Discussed introducing a warrant article opposing NED. After discussing whether or not to propose an article, we agreed it makes more sense to offer support to an article proffered by a wider group of citizens.

Liz moved that we instruct the Selectmen to refuse access by Kinder Morgan, Tennessee Natural Gas, or any of their associates, subsidiaries, contractors, subcontractors, or any similar affiliates to conservation land in Mason for the purpose of surveying. Barbara seconded. Passed unanimously. The Selectmen are hereby so directed.