



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes – D R A F T

April 12, 2017
7:00 pm to 9:45 pm

In Attendance

- Bob Dillberger
- Barbara DeVore
- Anna Faiello
- Liz Fletcher
- Bob Larochelle
- Lundy Lewis
- Ann Moser

Voted unanimously to accept March minutes.

Received a check for \$400.00 from LCHIP for being good stewards (submitting our monitoring reports on time). Money to be deposited in the Stewardship Fund.

Received a check for \$1,350.00 from Dennis Graham in payment for April and June rent on the A-frame on Old Ashby Rd. Money to be deposited in the Old Ashby Road Fund. Discussed renewal of his lease.

Received a bill for \$266.00 for membership dues in the N.H. Assoc. of Conservation Commissions to be paid from Conservation general fund.

Discussed payment to Tony Lombardo and Melissa Mudrick to reimburse them for their costs associated with preparing the easement for the Mason Quarry parking area (something we had previously offered to do). Tony and Melissa submitted documentation showing expenses of \$500 (\$200 legal fees, \$300 mortgage service fee). Bob L. observed that it is unusual for the CC to be engaged in this sort of transaction, and suggested we ask Brenda for advice on how best to proceed. Bob D. suggested we ask Tony and Melissa to submit copies of payment receipts to ensure the bills have been paid before we reimburse them. After discussion, Liz moved we reimburse Tony and Melissa the full cost of the services they reported (i.e., \$500.00). Bob D. pointed out that we previously agreed to contribute to the cost, not necessarily cover the full cost, and suggested we pay half. Liz's motion passed 6 to 1.

Discussed the idea of prohibiting target shooting Town conservation land. We have the ongoing problem of target shooting on the Mitchell Brook land. Legally, it's currently allowed by state and town law. Barbara reports that Merrimack has recently passed an ordinance to address this issue, and suggests that ordinance might serve as a model for use on Mason conservation land.

Discussed various ideas for improvements to the rail trail (beyond our planned maintenance work) to be funded by an anonymous benefactor. One possibility is an improved surface on the Jackson Rd. bridge which is being quickly worn by snowmobiles. We could also use some improved parking areas. Lundy suggested a boardwalk through one of our wetter parcels. Agreed to take a bike ride on April 22 at 10 AM to generate ideas; meet at Pratt Pond.

Re. amendment to the Fifield easement, received an official "no action" letter from the state AG, so there's nothing left for us to do on this matter.

Reviewed the proposed parking ordinance for Scripts (sic) Ln. Re. Section 5, the Commission feels that 72 hours is an unreasonably short time to allow for payment before assessing penalties, and recommends one week instead. Also, we like to know the justification for prohibiting parking on that portion of the road just off Brookline Rd. where parking would seem to be reasonable.

We need to discuss with Dave Morrison the trees growing out of the RR Trail abutments at Jackson Rd. If left unchecked, the tree growth is likely to start dislodging stones. Bob D. volunteered to contact Dave on this matter, and also ask about drainage at the Florence Roberts Forest trailhead.

Discussed application for a variance before the ZBA for 20 Bell Lane. Will attend the meeting on April 17th.

Discussed formation of a Conservation Plan to include corridors and special places to conserve.