



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes

Feb. 13, 2019
7:00 pm to 9:20 pm

In Attendance

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

Voted unanimously to accept January minutes as amended.

Voted to pay **N.H. Assoc. of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) \$250** for our 2019 dues, money to come from the Conservation General Fund.

Voted to pay the remaining **\$2,000 to the Society for Protection of N.H. Forests** for their stewardship fund for the Mason Quarry Land, money to come from the Land Protection Fund.

Received a copy of a letter (dated 1/21/19) from Jeffrey Blecharczyk at NH DES, Land Resources Mgmt. Program, to Sam Rowse re. the clearcut on parcel E-45. The letter notifies Mr. Rowse of potential violation due to failure to stabilize disturbed soils near wetlands and adjacent upland forest. The letter asks Mr. Rowse to respond within 20 days.

Met with Lydia Morton (Eversource), Elizabeth LaRocca (Eversource), and Katy Wilkins (Tighe & Bond, Eversource contractor) regarding planned pole replacement along the power line. They'll be replacing 10 wooden poles with weathered steel. The Eversource folks walked us through their plans. We pointed out that several poles targeted for replacement reside on conservation land (Doonan and Fifield easements) and thus require special attention to environmental concerns. Of particular concern are roads to be constructed for vehicle access that also make the right-of-way more attractive to illegal OHRV use. Lydia committed to at least blocking access points with large boulders. We also discussed replacing topsoil and seeding on construction pads to help restore plant life.

Regarding the Stauble land, we agreed we need a legal option to buy the property before proceeding much further. Additionally, we'll need an authorization to go on the property (for example, to do a vernal pool study), authorization for our agents to go on the property (for environmental studies), and permission to request a Natural Heritage Bureau report. Because of the amount of work involved, Bob D. suggested forming a subcommittee for the duration of the project. All agreed, so we formed a subcommittee of Bob D., Anne, and Barbara. Bob L. will contact Mr. Stauble to ask if he's willing to give us an option; all other work is contingent on that. Also, Bob D. volunteered to ask for time on the next BOS agenda to ask for BOS approval for the project, and also to discuss other related matters.

Received email from Craig Fifield summarizing his lawyer's response to the recent LCHIP letter regarding the Fifield easement. We agreed to offer to Craig a letter of support (the lawyer generally agreed with our remarks), but the ball's really in Craig's court now.

BOS is awaiting deeds from Tom Quinn before the Valentine land gifts can be finalized. Nothing to do until then.

Bob L. will contact NHACC about handbooks. Get one for everybody if there's a new edition, otherwise just get copies for new members.