



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes

August 14, 2019
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

In Attendance

- Bob Dillberger
- Anna Faello
- Liz Fletcher
- Bob Larochelle
- Lundy Lewis
- Ann Moser
- Matt Robinson-Liu

Bob L. moved we accept July minutes. Liz seconded. Passed unanimously.

Reviewed minutes from special meeting of June 22. Bob D. moved we accept the minutes as amended. Liz seconded. Passed unanimously.

Reviewed a bill for legal services from Bill Drescher for 2.5 hours of work related to LCHIP's complaints about alleged violations of the Fifield Tree Farm easement. Barbara moved we pay Attny. Drescher \$512.50 with money coming from the Land Protection Fund. Liz seconded. Passed 6-1 with all saying "Yay" except Bob D. who voted "Nay" saying we should have more detail about the work done before paying the bill.

Received a rent check for the Old Ashby Rd. property from Dennis Graham for \$1,350.00, money to be deposited in the Old Ashby Rd. Fund.

Reviewed a copy of a letter from N.H. DES to Mr. Rowse *et al* regarding possible issues deriving from the clear-cut on the Rowse property on Valley Rd. The letter notes the lack of appropriate erosion control, and disturbance of three wetlands areas, and that the work was done without appropriate DES permits. The letter details steps to be taken for remediation.

Met with Bob Bergeron to discuss repairs/enhancements to the RR trail gates (motivated by recent difficulties with emergency vehicles reaching the quarry). Fire Chief Fred Greenwood requests gate openings be a minimum of 12 feet wide (they're currently 10 feet). We'll make them 13 feet wide if the materials are available. Bob B. recommends 2" Schedule-80 steel pipe for the crossbars. Bob B. recommends contacting Mill Metals in Manchester for the materials. Bob L. will call them.

Regarding the bridge on the emergency access road, Bob L. spoke with Dennis LaBombard who says we can retrofit a wider deck on top of the existing bridge.

Met with Dave Baker to discuss the lease on Greenville Rd. Dave reports some issues have arisen. Some deep sinkholes have developed in the old runway. Also, overgrazing by turkeys is destroying some of the hay grass on the hill top. Finally, numerous wet areas on the hill and elsewhere don't seem to drain, yielding wet hay which is not ideal. Dave suggested a site visit by the CC to survey the problems. We chose the afternoon of Thursday Aug. 22 at a TBD time.

Met with Rob Doyle who has 7-8 bluebird (or tree swallow) houses he'd like to donate to the CC, enough to create a "bluebird trail" on some conservation land. Rob is offering to help create a trail with us, and offers his expertise for siting and installation. Some possible spots: Greenville Rd. overlook or nearby field, Potter land across from cemetery, field behind town offices. Rob will have time in late Sept. to early Nov.

Liz reports the Grovesteens are working on the management plan that Mason CC's July 31st letter reminded them is required by the easement.

Craig Fifield and Craig Birch supplied an update to the ten-year forest management plan required by the easement on the Fifield Tree Farm. Liz sent a copy to LCHIP. However, the map of cut areas needs to be revised to make it readable. Liz will notify the Craigs.

Bob L. reports that Amos White isn't responding to emails about the status of work on the RR Trail. If work can't begin soon (within a week), we need to look for another contractor. Bob D. suggested we go ahead and send out an RFP so we have a Plan B in the works. Can draft an RFP from Amos' bid. Barbara will ask Will Wildes about potential contractors.

Tom Jones at PLC has asked the CC to write a letter of support for their ARM grant for purchase of B-4-2. Bob D. will draft a letter.

Reminder: Public hearing next Wed. at 7:00 PM to present the draft conservation plan. Barbara will post required notices. Liz will make 12 copies of the draft plan (minus appendices). Bob D. will bring the mounted map of conservation lands. Bob L will bring his easel.

Agreed to invite Scott MacGarvey to our Sept. meeting to present the Planning Board instructions for adapting the conservation plan as chapter in the revised Master Plan. Bob D. will invite Scott.

Decided to set up a meeting on Sept. 23 with Bill Stoughton from Amherst CC. Bill will present a spreadsheet and process he's developed for tracking conservation land management.

Need to prepare a sign for "Nose Meadow". Bob D. will work on it.