

Nelson Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes
May 24, 2018

Rick Church called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Members Present: Anne McBride, Tom Newcombe, Gary Robinson, and Kathy Schillemat

April meeting minutes:

Kathy moved to approve, Gary seconded. All voted in favor.

Mail:

Rick passed around 2 items of routine mail for review by members.

Permit Review:

The ZBA has approved a building permit for an addition to the Koester Trust home on Lake Nubanusit. Kathy attended the hearing. The added room will be further back from the lake than the existing building. No wetland or lake shore issues are involved.

Clean-Up:

Rick will be scheduling a special clean-up along Granite Lake Rd. where discarded tires have been spotted. He is lining up Tom Murray who has a pickup truck and winch to reduce the effort. Rick will email NCC members once the date and time are finalized.

City Hill Land project:

Rick proposed that Tom's email summary of his May 2nd meeting with the Selectmen be attached to these minutes for the record. The subject of the meeting was to update the Select Board on the process and outcome of the NCC search for a forestry consultant to produce the required Forest Management Plan. Copy of the email is pasted below.

Rick received a draft Forest Services Agreement from Meadowsend Consulting, which NCC members have reviewed via email. Rick proposed and Kathy seconded a motion to approve the agreement as submitted. Since the final document will also require Select Board signatures, Rick will contact Laura French at Meadowsend to request a version with additional signature lines. Rick will also send a letter to the Trustees of Trust Funds requesting withdrawal of the 20% deposit (\$2,360) from the Conservation Expendable Trust Fund.

Rick is arranging field visits with Mike Tarr to discuss the proposed parking lots that need to be constructed off Homestead Lane and Brickyard Road. Access road improvements to both parking lot sites will also be discussed. The requirement is for three-season access; winter snowplowing is not in scope for the project. Rick will invite Lucy Daniels and the Voymas's to the Homestead Lane meeting to ensure any potential concerns are addressed.

The beaver problem will need to be resolved to enable heavy equipment access to the old gravel pit site off Brickyard Rd. It's possible a new culvert might be needed; if so, permitting and funding questions will come up. Some patching of Ethan's old logging road will be needed to prevent erosion. After the site visits, Mike will follow up with cost estimates for having the work performed by the Town road crew.

Rick proposed that discussion of kiosk design and construction planning be postponed until the next meeting. He showed an example kiosk design for the Rail Trail which may be useful.

Anne offered to deliver a suggestion box to the Library to collect suggested names for the property from the public. Kathy will draft a message for the next Grapevine soliciting suggestions and mentioning the collection box.

Rick reported on the Trails Committee goal of adding a loop from Kulish Ledges to Osgood Hill, with a different path returning. The route has been partially flagged. This might satisfy the grant requirement to 'build one trail' on the property.

Future Conservation Acquisitions:

Rick suggested that the NCC begin thinking about options for future acquisitions of land and/or conservation easements, using trust funds remaining from the Partridge bequest and Osgood / Hurd project grant. Several ideas were discussed, including land for an enlarged hiking loop, wetlands preservation, the Great Meadow, and Jack Bradshaw's wetlands. Anne suggested that we watch for upcoming matching grant opportunities. Discussions will continue during future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Newcombe
Secretary

ATTACHMENT:

From Tom Newcombe

Wed, May 2, 8:22 PM

to Richard, katharine, Gary, Dave, Anne, Rebecca, Zachary, bcc: me

Hi folks,

I was first on today's agenda with the selectmen, and we accomplished 3 items of NCC business.

First was discussion of our selection process for evaluating forestry consultants, and the reasons for our unanimous selection of Meadowsend Consulting. Thanks Gary for your help conveying our positive impressions. We focused mostly on the goals related to recreation, education, ecology, and conservation and how we were especially impressed with Meadowsend's interest and experience in these areas. We mentioned timber harvesting as a secondary, long-term goal, and explained how the forestry report will also address this potential. We emphasized the importance of public facilitation and the positive feedback in this area from our references. (thanks Rebecca for our conversation about the airport manager's comments). They did ask a few questions related to budget, grant requirements, pricing from other proposals, and the spring 2019 timeline, all of which we addressed. I felt that the selectmen were very interested and supportive in what we've done. Dave said as far as he's concerned, we're good to go with Meadowsend.

On the question of contract mechanics, the selectmen are fine with Rick notifying Meadowsend and requesting / reviewing the draft Agreement. Edie will need a copy when we are satisfied with a final draft, and it will have to be signed by the selectmen.

The selectmen will sign Meadowsend's agreement at their next meeting on May 16th, if we can provide a final copy before then to Edie. Once signed, Rick can send a letter to the Trustees requesting withdrawal of the down payment from the Trust fund, for which NCC is the agent.

2nd item - request for \$4k from Milfoil fund for the 2 lake host programs. Edie had the paperwork prepared in advance so the selectmen could vote and sign it while I was there, so I could take the letter and initiate the withdrawal from the trust fund. I'll do that tomorrow.

3rd item - Rob Germeroth. Dave or another selectman will call Rob to confirm his appointment.