

Nelson Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes
September 27th, 2018

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

Members Present: Rebecca DiGirolomo, Tom Newcombe, Gary Robinson, Kathy Schillemat

August 23rd meeting minutes:

Two corrections to the draft minutes were reviewed, then the final draft was approved by all members.

Partridge Woods project:

Tom, Kathy, and Gary shared highlights of the state inspection visit which took place on Monday, Sept. 24th. Rick, Kathy, Tom, and Gary were joined at Nelson Village by Bill Gegas and ~~xxxxx~~ from the NH Division of Parks and Recreation to review the objectives of the LWCF grant and a map of the proposed inspection tour. The group was also joined by Eric Masterson from the Harris Center as well as several members of the public including hiking enthusiasts and Nelson Trails Committee members.

The group first car pooled to Brickyard Rd. to view the access road improvements, new parking lot, and recently completed kiosk. We then drove to Homestead Lane to view the access road improvements, parking lot, and kiosk at that location. Photos were taken and questions answered at both sites. It was obvious that our inspectors were favorably impressed with the work done. The group then drove to the Kulish Ledges trailhead and hiked the trail from there to the summit of Osgood Hill, stopping to view and discuss points of interest along the way – including natural and historic features, the starting point of the new trail extension, scenic views, and trail construction techniques. After enjoying some conversation and a picnic lunch at the summit, the group hiked through the woods to the old logging road and back down to Brickyard Road, where two cars had been left for the ride back to Nelson Village and the trailhead. All participants agreed that the tour was a success, and that all grant requirements have been satisfied. Bill provided the state-required signs for posting on the kiosks.

Rick presented bills from Rob Germeroth (\$550.45 for materials purchased for kiosk construction) and from the Town Highway Dept. (\$17,120.03 for materials and labor expended on access road and parking lot construction). Kathy moved and Gary seconded a motion to approve payment of both bills from grant funds previously received. All members voted in favor.

Tom reported that the balance of grant funds remaining in the Nelson Conservation Commission Trust Fund was \$144,688.00 prior to its transfer to the NCC checking account. The balance in the checking account was \$21,721.61 prior to the addition of transferred grant funds. Edie will keep track of all expenditures related to the Partridge Woods project and maintain a running balance of grant funds – which will be needed for the planned future warrant article that will propose transferring those funds back to the original trust fund.

Rick reviewed designs and costs for the 'Partridge Woods' signs being commissioned from Peter Poanessa. Rick and his wife Betsy wish to donate a 48" x 27" sign for installation at the Brickyard Rd. entrance, as well as one of the kiosk signboards. Rob Germeroth wishes to donate the

signboard for the second kiosk. Kathy moved and Gary seconded a motion for the NCC to accept these gifts, and all voted in favor.

Final grant close-out details were reviewed. Bill Gegas has offered to provide the required map showing the property boundaries and parking lot / kiosk locations, plus signature block for Selectmen sign-off. The reimbursement spreadsheet and state inspection report from the Sept. 24th outing will be ready shortly.

Kathy agreed to discuss with the Homestead Lane neighbors the wording of a sign proposed for that entrance. At a minimum the sign will inform the public that the parking lot will not be maintained during the winter, and that the road beyond the parking lot is private. Kathy suggested that the sign at Greengate might offer some additional ideas.

There was a brief discussion of how to formalize an agreement between the Town and the Homestead Lane residents for ongoing future maintenance of the Homestead Lane access. Mike Tarr has mentioned that future maintenance should be simpler and easier since completion of the improvements. Still, a written agreement would clarify expectations and avoid future questions. Kathy agreed to ask the residents who share the access road for input while discussing the proposed sign.

Future Conservation Projects:

Rick reported that he had called Jack Bradshaw to follow up on previous conversations about the meadow that Jack owns across the road from his house on Old Stoddard Rd. This meadow contains wetlands, and abuts property currently used by the Town for its septic system. Rick had suggested that Jack consider donating this land to the Town and protecting it with a conservation easement. In his latest call, Rick proposed that Jack subdivide this parcel and donate it directly to the Nelson Conservation Commission under the provisions of a new state RSA which enables such transfers. Rick also suggested that a small portion of the property be donated to the Town for potential future expansion of the leach field. Rick passed around copies of a letter that he drafted for Jack which outlines these suggestions, and a copy of some edits that Anne has proposed. Rick will send the letter to Jack, and then call on him to discuss it in person. Rick will also meet with the Selectmen to get them in the loop.

Monitoring of Easements:

A list of lands in Nelson currently subject to conservation easements was passed out and reviewed. Responsibility for monitoring is assigned to the Town for three of the lots. The group agreed that deeds and other documentation should be gathered to inform the planning of future monitoring.

Other Business:

Rick will be away the 4th week of October. Unless pressing business comes up, the group agreed to forgo the regular monthly meeting for that month. An alternative date for the November meeting will be determined, since the 4th Thursday is Thanksgiving.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Newcombe
Secretary

