

Nelson Conservation Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting of July 24, 2019

Draft

Kathy Schillemat opened the meeting at 7:05 PM. Also present were Gary Robinson, Anne McBride, Rebecca DiGirolomo and Rick Church

Minutes of meeting of June 27, 2019: Anne moved approval. Gary seconded. Passed

**Partridge Woods:** Kathy announced that the Nelson Trails Committee would be flagging three trails on the property at 9AM, Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>

Tom Newcombe joined the meeting at 7:08

Rick suggested that the Commission revisit the name of one of those trails. The Commission agreed to revise the name of the trail that will connect the old town road (to be called the Wheeler Trail) to the current Kulish Ledge Trail, the Osgood Hill Link Trail. The three trails to be created this year will be:

The Wheeler Trail using an old town road to connect Brickyard Road and Homestead Lane.

Ethan's Way will follow a wood road built by Ethan Tolman from the Brickyard Parking Lot to the Wheeler Trail.

Osgood Link Trail, as described above.

Kathy reviewed the routes of these trails on the map created by the Student Conservation Corps and provided to us by the Trail Finder Group. The Trail Finder Group can produce the maps needed for our kiosks. Rick suggested we needed information in addition to the map for the kiosks and mentioned the example of the Monadnock Conservancy kiosk at Temple Mountain. Tom suggested a message about ticks. Rick to send out examples of kiosk information/map displays. Laura French recommends mowing the trails to mitigate the tick problem. Cut the brush far back.

**Partridge Woods Grand Opening:** Kathy suggested the Grand Opening be October 5<sup>th</sup>. October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10AM was agreed.

Discussion Summary:

Food: donuts and cider. Will need a popup tent in case of rain. (Kathy can get one.)

Publicity: Grapevine: when's the next edition? Press deadline? Candyce's email list. Invitations for people who supported out grant application, congressional delegation, people who made donations, Q2C

Specific plans: Anne agreed to draft an announcement we could email

Kathy to check in the Grapevine schedule.

Rick to call the Sentinel, perhaps get the Sentinel reporter out to the property in advance of the event.

Two hikes planned: One to the clear cut (Carpool to Homestead Lane from the Brickyard Parking Lot. One a circular route up Ethan's Way, east on the Wheeler Trail and back down Brickyard Rd.

Rick to notify the Harris Center, DRED

**Wetland Permits report by Tom Newcombe:**

691 Granite Lake Rd: the former Fraser house on Granite Lake. The house is being torn down and a new one constructed on the old footprint. There are professional drawn plans which call for < 30% impervious surface (29%). New septic system. The DES Permit should be received soon.

15 & 17 Mill Pond Road and 12 Old Towne road: the former Lyon Place on the Granite Lake Mill Pond: Major renovations. One less building.

Impervious surface reduced from 8% to 6%.

**Possible easement donation update:** The potential donor is negotiating with an abutter. The parties need to have an appraisal done before going further.

**Report on the tour of Partridge Woods (June 29, 2019) led by Laura French of Meadowsend Consulting:**

Rebecca reported that Laura was pleased with the turnout and enthusiasm in Nelson. The clear cut might be best managed by conducting a controlled burn. We would have to hire a qualified firm. The result would be a healthier site free of slash and one favoring the growth of species that would provide good habitat for animals and birds.

The property has a small spruce stand that should be harvested fairly soon.

We should consider asking the town to formally designate Partridge Woods as a Town Forest vesting the responsibility for management with the Conservation Commission. It doesn't look as though there are timber harvest possibilities in the near term that would produce much revenue and, even long term, the property may just barely be able to support its costs. Costs include things like the controlled burns, gates at the entrances, trail maintenance, etc. Rebecca agreed to research the RSAs on Town Forests.

Next meeting: August 22 at 7PM

Rick moved and Tom seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 8:37PM