

Nelson Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of December 19, 2019

Draft

Kathy Schillemat opened the meeting at 7:06 PM. Also present were Anne McBride and Rick Church.

Approval of Minutes:

Kathy moved approval of the minutes of 11/21/2019, as corrected by Gary Robinson, (second Anne) All voted to approve, though Anne noted that she had not attended the meeting.

Maps for the kiosks at Partridge Woods:

Rick reported on a poster created by Antioch New England University that welcomes visitors to Blake Town Forest in Gill, Massachusetts. He suggested it as a model for our use in the kiosks at Partridge Woods. Stephen Lamonde at Antioch estimates that it would cost Nelson between \$200 and \$250 to produce two similar posters for our use. The Blake Town Forest poster contains a map of the property and its trails surrounded by pictures of the flora and fauna to be found there. Rick suggested we could each come up with pictures representing Partridge Woods and the messages we will use to promote it to the public. As more features and trails are identified they could be added to future maps for little more than the cost of reprinting. Rick suggested the map could be complete before the public starts using the property extensively next year. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Rob Germeroth and Tom Newcombe joined the meeting at 7:20

Anne pointed out that the map we have been using may not be accurate based on where it came from and how it has been put together. She said we should be careful not to publish an inaccurate map. She also suggested that we might get the map produced as a student project at Antioch.

We agreed on the following:

Anne will contact Laura French to gage the appropriateness of the map used in the Forest Management Plan. If it is not accurate enough, she will suggest ways that might be achieved.

Rick will call Stephen Lamonde at Antioch to see whether a student project would work to get our poster made.

All members of the Conservation Commission will come to the January meeting with ideas and/or pictures to frame the map and explain the property to the public.

Forrest Management Plan for Partridge Woods:

The consensus on the Commission is that the Forest Management Plan is in nearly its final form. Kathy will email Laura French of Meadowsend to ask that the latest edits be added and that it be sent to us by January 10, 2020. After that we should have a public workshop based on the plan and an opportunity for the public to tour the property with our forester. Kathy suggested this might be on a weekend in April 2020.

Anne moved that the Commission approve the Forest Management Plan as edited. (Rob second). Passed unanimously.

Access to the town property in the Great Meadow: Anne has looked at the deed to the property donated to the town by Harvey and Frankie Tolman on the Great Meadow. The deed makes no mention of a right of way for the town that would ensure that the town can have guaranteed access so that we can monitor and manage the property. With the real prospect that adjacent property, now owned by the Tolmans, may be protected, she felt we should to take this opportunity to assure access to this landlocked property. She suggested we try to get a right of way either by a separate agreement with the Tolmans prior to any sale or by asking them to include a right of way in favor of the town in any deed of conveyance. Anne suggested the access granted could be very limited. Anne volunteered to draft such an agreement for review by town counsel. Kathy will call the Tolmans to discuss the issue.

Limiting damaging use at Partridge Woods:

Rick reported on a conversation with Peter Reichel in which the latter reported seeing ruts made by a motor bike on Partridge Woods trails and trails made by the Trails Committee on adjoining property. The tracks entered the property near the Dunn's, followed the Kulish Ledges Trail to nearly the ledge itself. They went over Osgood Hill and down the north side approximately 1 mile. Peter reported alterations to stone walls as well as ruts in some of the wetter areas.

There was a discussion of how to prevent damage to the property from ground engaging machines and their riders. Rick pointed out that we have never made a formal list of uses we'd permit and uses we'd prohibit. He thought the first step to prohibiting damaging use was to sign the entrances to that effect. There followed a general discussion of what approach to use. Permitted and prohibited uses could be a topic to be covered on the suggested kiosk signs. Anne agreed to see what other conservation organizations have done about this. Rick will call Tom Duston, retired chair of the Chesterfield Conservation Commission for advice.

Kathy moved that the meeting be adjourned. (Tom second) motion passed. 8:35PM

Next meeting: January ^{23rd}

Rick Church, Secretary