

## DRAFT Minutes

Nelson Conservation Commission

Monday, April 18, 2022

Present: Dave Birchenough, Brenna Kucinski (Select Board liaison), Anne McBride, Tom Newcombe, Kathy Schillemat, Kathleen Vetter, Janet Yardley

Visitors: Judith Putzel (1<sup>st</sup> agenda item); Sienna Giffin (2<sup>nd</sup> agenda item)

Kathy called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in the Library conference room.

### Minutes:

After review, Dave moved and Janet seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2022 meeting.

### Judith Putzel :

Judith is working on plans for a guest house that would potentially exceed the 1500 square feet maximum size allowed by the conservation easement on her property. Plans are in the early stages and there is no immediate timeframe, but she wants to understand the process for seeking an amendment to the easement. Anne suggested that Judith review the amendment procedure document on the website of the NH Charitable Trusts Division of the Attorney General's Office, who have jurisdiction over conservation easements. This document outlines seven requirements that must be satisfied. Approval would be required from the AG office, as well as the named easement monitors – which includes the NCC and also the Harris Center (Judith mentioned they have been making annual monitoring visits for years). Anne has confirmed that the HC holds an 'executory interest' in the easement. Discussion will continue when Judith is ready.

### Sienna Giffin:

Sienna is preparing a DES 'Permit by Notification' application to install a dry hydrant on the shore of Tolman Pond. She would like the NCC to sign off on the application when it's ready to enable expedited DES approval – which reduces the 25 day approval cycle to 10 days. Sienna will come to the next NCC meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> if the paperwork is completed by then. NCC members can drive by the site before then, it is flagged.

### Conservation Moments:

Kathy saw a Jefferson Salamander at the recent crossing – a rare find. Brenna has enjoyed watching a Mama bear with her cubs, and also noticed the return of a previously injured male bear.

### Mail / New Member recruiting:

No Mail; no success yet with recruitment of new members.

### Outline of Annual NCC tasks:

Kathy will circulate the edited outline of yearly NCC tasks for review.

Kathy suggested that we consider an activity for Old Home Week. Brenna let everyone know that the date for Old Home Day has just been changed from Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> to Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> due to the prior booking of the town hall for a wedding.

### Roadside Cleanup:

Scheduled for Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup>; bags available in front of the Library from 9:30 – 11:00 that morning. Several routes were assigned / confirmed. Filled bags can be left roadside anytime during the following week for people collecting trash on their own schedule.

### Partridge Woods parking lot trail and Map:

Members of the Trails Committee recently walked the new parking lot area off Old Stoddard Rd. to determine the best trail connector layout. There was agreement that a single bridge over the nearby stream would be optimal. A specific location has been identified that is on town land, and which will provide easy truck access for delivery of materials. Dave and Rick Church will be meeting this Wed. to finalize some technical details for the bridge. The Harris Center has visited the site and given their approval. The future trail connection into Partridge Woods has not yet been laid out.

Dave has been discussing options for completing the map of Partridge Woods trails with Stephen Lamonde of Antioch. No student volunteers are available at this time, but Stephen can get the work done for a cost of approximately \$300 plus printing. Anne has copies of some earlier map drafts in electronic format which might be useful. Janet moved and Kathleen V. seconded a motion to approve up to \$450 of NCC funds to cover the map creation and printing costs. All voted in favor. Dave will continue as liason with Stephen on this project.

John Taylor-Maule has designed and offered to build a map stand / platform for placement at the top of Osgood Hill. Sketches of the plan were passed around. The kiosk

at Homestead Lane will need to be moved at some point; Kathy will talk with Rick Church for advice about disassembly.

Easement Monitoring:

Kathy will finalize the letter to be sent to landowners requesting visits by NCC members for monitoring their conservation easements. Hopefully letters can be mailed in May.

Class A Trails:

There is some interest by the Harris Center in discussing the process for creating Class A Trails. Dave will circulate copies of the 'Hard Road to Travel' booklet which explains NH procedures related to all classifications of roads and trails. We will invite Eric Masterson of the HC to join us at the May meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Newcombe