

Nelson Conservation Commission

Minutes

December 17, 2020

Present: Rob Germeroth*, Anne McBride, Kathy Schillemat, Sarah Wilson

Absent: Tom Newcombe, Gary Robinson, John Taylor Maule, Janet Yardley

Kathy called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm

Kathy declared that the meeting will be held entirely on Zoom due to Covid 19 restrictions.

2021 Nelson Town Warrant to Support Carbon Cash Back:

Guest presenter Patsy Beffa-Negrini joined our meeting to discuss the 2021 Nelson Town Warrant to Support Carbon Cash Back. (A follow up to her initial visit to our meeting in October). She asked for our support of this warrant. She needs 35 signatures indicating support, and when she gets those she will then speak with the town's select board. Kathy indicated that it is within our commission's responsibilities to support reducing carbon as it helps to protect our natural resources in Nelson. The group agreed that individual members can support this as they feel appropriate, but as a Commission we would not formally endorse it.

November 19 minutes:

Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Sarah, seconded by Anne, and approved by all members.

*Rob joined the meeting at this point.

Brickyard Road Gate:

Rob confirmed that he put a lock on the gate yesterday. He will give one key to Rick Church as chair of the Trails Committee, and one to Kathy as chair of the Conservation Commission. Rob will speak with the selectmen to decide who from the town should hold a third key. Kathy will send thank you notes to John Zurich, Kirk Dale, and Rob Germeroth on behalf of the Commission for their work on the gate.

Homestead Lane and Parking Area Updates:

A discussion ensued regarding the Homestead Lane parking area situation. The Commission would like to hear back from the select board as to whether they are intending to get an opinion from a lawyer about this situation. The Commission will notify the select board that we will vote on this at our January meeting. The group discussed having a temporary sign at the beginning of the road that lets people know there is no parking at the parking lot December 1 – May 15. As far as signage at the parking lot itself, Sarah will make laminated signs that say: (1) No Parking in this lot from December 1 – May 15, and (2) Parking at the end of or along Homestead Lane is always prohibited. The signs will be attached to wooden posts that can be inserted in the tops of some orange cones. Rob will check with Mike Tarr to see if we could borrow 3 cones from the Town for this purpose. Rob will find the wood posts for this purpose as well.

Warrant Article for Milfoil Prevention Fund.

The Commission typically seeks \$4500 annually for this purpose (\$2,000-Granite Lake, \$2,000-Nubanusit Lake, and \$500 for Silver Lake - if requested—or to be added to the fund in case Milfoil remediation is necessary). The group agreed to request this same amount again this year. Kathy will notify the town of this request. Acceptance of this plan was moved by Rob, seconded by Anne, and approved by all members.

Cyanobacteria update on Nubanusit:

The problem is decreasing as the winter comes on and the lake freezes over. Janet will send a notice about this problem to Kathy, who can post it on the town web sites, and on the Conservation Commission facebook page. Janet can send an electronic version of the sign to Sarah who can print it out, laminate it, and return it back to Janet for posting at the Nubanusit Gate House.

Proposal from Laura at Meadowsend (our forester) for a Zoom informational meeting about Nelson's Forestry Management Plan.

The group discussed holding this meeting via Zoom at 11:00 am on a Saturday following the 10:00 am coffee hour at the library. Kathy will communicate with Laura and Kris Finnegan to see if there are available times that would work. If done in this manner it would be co-sponsored by the Conservation Commission and the library. It could possibly be followed up by an outdoor meeting at a future date.

Grant Options:

Anne suggested considering applying for a Walmart Foundation Community Grant Program for possible funding for the proposed new parking lot along Old Stoddard Road. Kathy mentioned that Bill Gegas had indicated to her that grants are available through the Department for Natural and Cultural Resources. Anne will look into possible funding sources through RTP (Recreational Trails Program). Plans to possibly apply for grants should be postponed until final decisions re: the Homestead Lane have been settled.

Parking Lot on Old Stoddard Road:

Kathy will inquire with John Taylor Maule to see if he would be willing to work with Mike Tarr on the proposed new parking lot project on Old Stoddard Road. The current kiosk on Old Homestead Lane could possibly be moved to the new parking lot, although some form of directions/maps should remain at the Homestead Lane Parking lot for those who still start at that location. The group agreed to further this discussion at a future date.

Stewardship Plan for Partridge Woods:

The Stewardship Plan for Partridge Woods needs to be submitted to the Harris Center...to be discussed and approved at a future meeting.

Sarah moved the meeting be adjourned, which Anne seconded, and all voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm

Minutes by Sarah Wilson