Nelson Conservation Commission (NCC) FINAL APPROVED meeting minutes for 9/23/21
In attendance: Kathy, Brenna, Sarah, Janet, Anne, and Tom (who arrived at 7:19 pm)
Guest: Ron Levy
Called to order 7:02 pm

1. **Approval of minutes**. Sarah will add to the minutes that Anne needs to address Eric Masterson's concern about scenic views to the Stewardship Plan. Kathy moved to approve minutes. Janet seconded. All approved.

   For October meeting: discuss trail access up Dunn's driveway

2. **Good news and Conservation Moments.** 1. Janet - On July 6th, a boat tried to access Nubanusit Lake, which had milfoil all over it (from their previous trip to Powdermill Pond). Luckily, it was caught before entering the lake. 2. Brenna & Sarah - Nine or ten people pulled barberry at Bailey Brook trail. Big success!

3. **Beaver issues on Lead Mine Road**. Ron Levy talked about a beaver issue on Lead Mine Road (at Father's Folly). The beavers have dammed the culvert resulting in the road being flooded multiple times this summer. Mike Tarr (road agent) suggested trapping the beaver. Meade Cadot has urged the family to not trap the beaver as it is a short-term solution and to instead install a beaver deceiver. Ron has been in touch with the Monadnock Conservancy, Eric Masterson at the Harris Center, and Geoff Jones from the Stoddard Con Comm for any advice on the matter. Tom Newcombe said there's a working beaver deceiver near Granite Lake (at Nye Meadow) that has worked for 5 or 6 years that was installed by Skip Lisle, who Ron has also been in touch with. The cost of the device is $3k. Geoff Jones told Ron that there was a small grant ($750) available through a non-profit and that the Stoddard Conservation Commission paid the balance. Ron was wondering if the NCC might consider helping out financially. Kathy said that in her memory the NCC has never been approached to pay for something on private property and that we'd need to discuss it. Ron would like to submit the application for the grant fairly soon and therefore it would be helpful to know soon if we could contribute. If so, he would include that information in his grant.

   Kathy suggested that it might be good for the NCC to be in touch with the road equipment committee and road agent to discuss beaver issues in general. And also how they deal with culvert replacement; specifically if they replace culverts with larger ones. Larger ones should help with increased storm events due to climate change and with fish passage.

   Ron Levy left the meeting.

   The NCC members discussed the request for funds to help pay for the beaver deceiver. There was consensus from the group that funding a project on private property is not

appropriate for us to be spending public money. We agreed to write a letter of support for their grant application. Kathy volunteered to write the letter.

4. **Daffodils**. Sarah purchased 250 bulbs, bagged them (25 bags of 10) and delivered them to those who volunteered with the roadside cleanup. There were 41 people who picked up trash. Tom moved to reimburse Sarah for $109.95 for purchasing the bulbs. Brenna seconded the motion. All approved.

5. **Conservation Commission handbook**. Kathy purchased the NH Municipal Conservation Commission Handbook for $20. Brenna moved to reimburse Kathy for this purchase and it was seconded by Janet. All approved. The copy will live in the library.

6. **New member report.** Both Dave Birchenough and Kathleen Vetter have agreed to join the NCC in November as full members. Brenna let us know that she learned from Edie that the Selectmen's representative is a voting member of the NCC. We checked the RSA and didn't see anything about a Selectboard member having to be part of its composition. There didn't seem to be opposition to having Brenna as a voting member, but we were curious if this was a town decision and not a state regulation.

   There was a discussion about possibly changing the day of week of the meeting because Tom and Dave have bell choir until 7pm on Thursdays. A potential option is the fourth Monday of every month. We agreed to discuss at the next meeting when Kathleen and Dave will be there. We will change the start time for next month's meeting to 7:15 pm to accommodate Tom and Dave coming late from practice.

7. **MOU between the Nelson Conservation Commission and the Nelson Selectboard Regarding Homestead Lane**. Kathy reported about her discussion with Bill Gegas from LWCF. Bill didn't seem too concerned about us signing the MOU. There is a list from Bill (Kathy sent to NCC members via email) of all the things we need to submit when we formally request swapping the parking lots for the grant. We also need to inquire with the NH Natural Heritage Bureau about whether there are any plant or animal species of concern in our proposed area. The response from the Bureau needs to be submitted as well. Anne volunteered to do that.

   Anne reported that the Harris Center approved the Stewardship Plan (with some suggestions for improvement) and therefore we can go ahead and build the parking area. We can now give Mike the green light to build the new parking area.

   We realized that we do not have the last draft of the MOU since the proposed changes. Kathy will ask Edie to send it to us. We will plan to discuss in October.

8. **Monitoring our Conservation Easements.** There are three easements we need to monitor.

- Collins: Cheshire County Registry of Deeds Book 1327, Page 97 **and** Book 1327, Page 105
- Pakradooni: CCRD Book 2450, Page 468
- Shonk: CCRD Book 1427, Page 616 **and** Book 1787, Page 731
  Anne volunteered to print out the easements and surveys from the Registry of Deeds. Next month we will figure out who monitors which easements.

9. **Trails on Partridge Woods**. We need to decide what to do with the wood from the clearing on Hurd Hill. Should we keep it there or allow someone to remove it? Concerns were raised about private benefit if we just let one person go and take the wood without opening up the opportunity to everyone. One idea is to get a work group to go up and cut up the wood and bring it to the Brickyard Rd parking area (as long as not blocking the parking). The wood could be offered for free to everyone and on a first come, first serve basis. Or we can just leave the wood there for wildlife habitat. We will report the idea of a work group to the Trails Committee and allow them to proceed with the idea of removing it.

10. **Erosion on Wheeler Trail and Osgood Link Trail.** Rick went with Eric Masterson to look at the erosion issues on the Wheeler Trail and the Osgood Link Trail where there is a lot of water. Eric is going to offer advice on water bars for the trails. The Trails Committee would like to get clearance from us so they can proceed with dealing with the erosion issues. Rick was going to ask Mr. Bunce to help with his tractor. There was a concern about the tractor going up the Osgood Link Trail because it is narrow and steep. Brenna moved that we ask Rick to share his plan with us once it is more formulated. Kathy seconded. We ask that the plan be submitted before our next meeting so we can vote on it at our October meeting. All approved.

11. NHACC annual meeting on Nov 6th.

Janet moved that we adjourn. Sarah seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.