

Minutes 11/15/2021

Nelson Conservation Commission
Meeting location: Library basement

In attendance: Kathleen Vetter, Dave Birchenough, Kathy Schillemat, Anne McBride & Brenna Kucinski

Minute taker: Anne McBride

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Agenda:

1. Approval of October Meeting minutes

Kathleen moved to accept the revised minutes written by Tom Newcombe. Daved seconded. All approved.

2. Good News and Conservation Moments

Everyone shared some wildlife sightings.

3. E. Schillemat ZBA decision review (Brenna)

Brenna explained the background about the situation and members discussed. It was suggested that Tom Newcombe would have more information since he was chair of the Planning Board at the time of approval in 1990. Dave also suggested looking for the minutes from that meeting in the archived municipal files in the library basement.

4. Budget for 2022

Our budget was \$1,340 for 2021.

NHACC dues: \$240 (they went up to \$250)

Trainings & conferences: \$275

Supplies and services (daffodils & deeds): \$200

Mileage: \$50

Legal & postings: \$375

Public programs: \$200

There was a discussion about our LUCT fund which is currently at \$17,291.76.

After a discussion about each line item from 2021, the group decided to propose a budget of \$1,350 for 2022. Dave moved a motion that the budget for 2022 be set at \$1,350. Anne seconded. All approved.

5. Partridge Woods- Report on recent work: Blueberries on Hurd Hill(Janet), water bar and culvert on Wheeler Trail (Kathy)

Kathy read an email update from Janet. This is what Kathy read:

On Saturday, October 23 Brenna, Steve, Dave Patek, Rick and I cut up the remaining downed wood on Hurd Hill. We left some stumps cut for seats and there are plenty of longer

logs for making more elaborate chairs. Unfortunately, Rick still felt the pile looked unruly and ugly. On Oct 24, Rick and I went back up to transplant blueberries. We moved 15-20 plants and cleaned up some more of the brush. The next 2 days it rained and hopefully the dormant plants will awake in the spring ready to flourish in their new locations. Rick went back since then to "neaten up" the wood pile and now feels it looks somewhere between acceptable and good. He is still sad to leave all that good wood to rot, but all agree there is not a feasible way to move it out. On his way out with the tractor on Oct 24, Rick cleared the culvert from the old beaver pond into Brickyard Brook. So Ethan's Way should not flood until the beavers move back up stream again.

Kathy read an email update from Rick Church about water bars on the Wheeler Trail. This is what Kathy read:

John Bunce and I built about five water bars/ditches and buried one culvert. It is hard to get good pictures. I enclose a few. The conditions were ideal in that the 2" of rain we got over the weekend made it very easy to see where they were needed and to be sure that the water would flow where we wanted. The biggest flow of water and the hardest task was where there had been an old stone culvert from 1774! A substantial spring comes up through the ground right at the side of the road. We put in a 12" modern culvert about 15' long. It was hard to dig a hole deep enough in the rocky ground and harder to find enough soil to cover it. We borrowed some from further up the road. It is very clear that there is a *lot* less water running in the road now!

The downside of all the water was that things were muddy. We smoothed things out with the tractor and with a rake, but it will be much prettier when dry and covered with a few leaves. I put down quite a bit of conservation mix to help hold things in place. We should keep vehicles off it for a while. I would appreciate it if the Cons Com sent John a thank you note.

Kathy is going to send John Bunce a thank you note on behalf of the NCC.

6. Update on plans for new parking area.

Kathy reported that the new parking area is done. Kathy suggested we do some more things to make it more attractive and possibly install some logs in the parking area in front of the drop off. We may want to install a barrier on the woods road so cars don't drive further into the property. We also need to install a kiosk.

Kathy didn't have a chance to check in with Bill Gegas yet regarding the paperwork he needed us to fill out. Kathy will reach out to Bill.

There was a discussion about putting up a gate or other barrier at the Homestead Lane parking area. There was also discussion about putting up a sign on the Wheeler Trail to stop people from walking to Homestead Lane. Dave will have Bulldog make the letters for a sign along with the other signs the trails committee is making for Partridge Woods.

7. Monitoring plan for town easements (Shonk, Putzel, Collins-2) -review assignments from last meeting

We discussed our assignments. Kathy will draft a letter to the two landowners of the Collins easements, which can also be used for the other landowners. She will send the draft to Anne for review and input.

The first step is to contact each landowner to make them aware (via letter) that there is a conservation easement on their property and that we plan to come monitor it. We will follow up after the letter to find a time to monitor.

We will later work on getting files organized for each easement and to set up annual monitoring reports. Dave will set up a Google account for the NCC so that we can keep all the files in the cloud. Anne is going to see if we can use the format that the Monadnock Conservancy uses for monitoring reports.

8. Public programs and workshops- Tabled until the next meeting because the meeting was going so late at this point.

9. Other Business: goals for 2022 (update NRI? Town Forest Warrant Article?)

We discussed the issue asked by Tom Newcombe via email about salt on the roads near Granite Lake. Tom wanted to know what the best management practice is for salt on the roads.

NRI and Town Forest were Tabled. Kathy will try to send more information about these items via email.

Anne made a motion to adjourn. Kathy seconded. All were in favor. Meeting ended at 9:20 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 10, 7:00 pm