

Nelson Conservation Commission
Meeting October 12, 2017
Minutes

Draft

Kathy Schillemat called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. Present were Kathy Schillemat, Rick Church, Gary Robinson and Anne McBride.

Minutes:

Kathy Schillemat asked for consideration of the minutes of the September 14, 2017 meeting. Gary moved approval and Kathy seconded his motion. All voted in favor.

Daffodils: Rick Moved the NCC purchase 240 bulbs, as is our tradition, to give to the roadside cleanup volunteers in recognition of their work. There were 16 volunteers this year. Kathy second. Passed

NH association of Conservation Commissions: Rick moved and Kathy seconded a motion to pay our NHCAA dues in the amount of \$236. Passed. Kathy noted that she has been elected to the NHCAA board.

Lake Host Program: Kathy reported that we have received a report from the Granite Lake Association reporting no “saves” this year. Two plant material samples were retrieved from boats and sent for analysis, but no invasive plants were found. Statewide the program reported 20 “saves.”

Tom Newcombe joined the meeting at 7:20

Used kiosk: There is a used sign/kiosk available for sale. Several NCC members have looked at it for possible use on the town’s new property. For a number of reasons it was decided not to purchase it. Commission members knew of several people who have volunteered to help build the kiosks we will need.

A name for the Osgood/Hurd property: We will solicit suggestions via the Moving in Step weekly email and Kathy will talk to the children in the Nelson School. Any name should not contain the phrase “town forest” as that would associate the property with the requirements of RSA 31:110.

Forest Management Plan for the newly acquired land on Osgood and Hurd Hills: Rick, Gary and Dave met as a subcommittee and have crafted the draft of a Request for Proposals to be sent to foresters who might be hired to create a Forest Management Plan. The draft consisted of two parts: a cover letter with language required by the town and a document covering requirements for the work itself. The latter is based on the “Specifications for Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan

in New Hampshire” published by the UNH Co-operative Extension Service. There was much discussion about how much we could expect and how much of the Stewardship Plan required by the terms of the easement on the land could be expected in a Forest Management Plan. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that Rick will revise the two documents so that they work better together and will work with the Town Administrative Assistant to “clean up” the documents and send them to NCC members for consideration at the November meeting. Rick plans to complete this by October 20th.

We discussed the possible timeline for selecting a forester for the project:

November meeting: Review and revise RFP

December meeting: Approve documents, decide on the list of foresters from whom to solicit proposals, agree process for evaluating proposals, send out the RFP.

February 1: Proposals due. To be submitted electronically so they can be easily shared with NCC members.

February and March: Interviews and selection

Public Hearing on Grants:

The public hearing required regarding the town’s acceptance of the grants received from LWCF and the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership will be Wednesday, October 18th at 3PM. Kathy expressed great displeasure at the way this has been handled. She had asked to be consulted on the time and wasn’t even told when it was scheduled. She found out about it when she was shown the notice in the Keene Sentinel. NCC would have liked to use the occasion to get some public notice of its work. Mid-afternoon on a Wednesday is a poor choice for that. Gary will convey the displeasure of the Commission to the selectmen.

Homestead Lane Parking Lot:

NCC consensus was that we should meet on Homestead Lane this fall with the neighbors and our Road Agent to discuss and agree on the location of a small parking lot. The effort should also evaluate what might be needed to be done to improve Homestead Lane from Old Stoddard Road to the proposed parking lot to make access by the recreational public safe and improve the ability of NCC and the neighbors to maintain access in the future. We should also start a discussion with those neighbors about making an agreement to share future maintenance decision-making and costs. The road associations at Greengate and Old Camp private roads may be

examples we could follow. Kathy will ask Dave Patek to head up the effort. She asked Rick to be part of it, too.

Hurd Hill water system cleanup:

Kathy reminded the group that we have a work day scheduled 10/28 at 8:30 to remove the pipes of the old water system off Brickyard Rd. Rick will try to recruit Trail Committee volunteers and Kathy will post it on the Moving in Step weekly email. We need many people, pickup trucks, hand saws and “sawsalls.” Kathy will contact the Student Conservation Association to see if they have volunteers.

Meeting adjourned 9:10 PM

Rick Church, Secretary