

Nelson Conservation Commission  
Meeting August 10, 2017  
Minutes

Draft

Kathy Schillemat called the meeting to order at 7:03PM. Present were Kathy Schillemat, Rick Church, Dave Patek, Zach Pearo, Gary Robinson and Tom Newcombe

Public in attendance: David Voymas and Lucy Daniels

**Minutes:**

Kathy Schillemat asked for consideration of the minutes of the June 18, 2017 meeting. Dave moved approval and Gary seconded his motion. All voted in favor.

**Osgood/Hurd Hill:**

Kathy reported that the selectmen have signed the two documents required by NH DRED to apply for reimbursement under our LWCF grant. Rick will call NH DRED to determine the exact process we are to use and will draft a cover letter to use to transmit the required documents.

**Misc. Issues:**

We have been notified that Alexander Guida has filed an intent to cut near Old Towne Road.

The Harris Center has monitored easements on Center Pond Rd. and Log Cabin Rd. Dave Birchenough has been informed by NH DES that he must rebuild his dock with a smaller cribbing and deck.

We have received a thank you note from NH Lakes for our contribution to the Lake Host Program at Granite Lake.

**Osgood/Hurd Hill Development:**

**Homestead Lane Issues**

David Voymas related a brief history of Homestead Lane and stated that the storms this summer have left the steep part of the road in rough condition. He plans to hire Bill Mullen to repair the road this summer. He has lived there 12 years and spends approximately \$1,000 each year maintaining the road in the summer. He has it plowed in the winter. He would like to see some agreement among the users of the road for its maintenance. He and Lucy Daniels use the road as does US Cellular, Fairpoint and Eversource. These last users make, perhaps three trips per year.

The development of the former Tolman property for public use will require that the Nelson Conservation Commission create a small parking lot on the east side of

Homestead Lane. Kathy reminded the meeting that the Conservation Commission currently lacked the funds to create the lot. It is likely this is a 2018 project. Once that is complete, it is likely that public traffic will increase on Homestead Lane between Old Stoddard Road and the parking lot.

David Voymas suggested that the users of the road might create an agreement for sharing road maintenance that requires a contribution to agreed maintenance in proportion to the amount of use by each party and the distance of each party's use from Old Stoddard Road. The subject of plowing the road came up. Rick stated that the Conservation Commission intends the main, public, entrance to the former Tolman land be through the old gravel pit off Brickyard Rd. As such there are no plans to plow the parking lot on Homestead Lane.

A discussion followed on signage for the road. We wish to restrict the public to parking at the lot to access the property from there without motorized vehicles. Signs further down the road might address the seasonal access and the private nature of the road south of the proposed parking lot. It was suggested that the lot might be located across the road from an informal parking spot used by hunters. The location is likely to be determined by looking for suitable ground, having good access to Homestead Lane, requiring relatively little fill and impinging no wet areas. The selection is likely to be done in consultation with the Nelson Road Agent and the neighbors.

**Four other issues:**

David Voymas would like to continue the practice of removing trees that fall on his property or that threaten to fall near the buildings on his north line.

He has a right of way beyond his driveway over the wood road that runs in the former Tolman land west and parallel with his lot line. He has been clearing fallen trees there and would like to be able to continue to do so.

He had an agreement with Ethan Tolman to post along that right of way even though the posting was on Tolman's property a little distance west of Voymas' line.

There's a gate that bars vehicular traffic beyond the cell tower. David Voymas has a key. The lock put on by Ethan Tolman needs to be replaced. Is the gate on the acquired property or on Ethan Tolman's property?

**Motion Made:**

Kathy moved and Rick seconded a motion that the Conservation Commission authorize David Voymas to post along the right of way he holds to access his property along its western boundary on land now owned by the Town of Nelson. Passed unanimously.

Lucy Daniels and David Voymas left the meeting at 7:55

There was a little further discussion of the Homestead Lane issues. The idea was put forward that the Conservation Commission might see if some improvement to Homestead Lane from the new parking lot to Old Stoddard Road could be included in the parking lot project as that would serve to give the public safe access to the parking lot. We have a project budget of \$15,000 for both parking lots on the property.

Gary left the meeting at 8:03

There as further discussion of Homestead Lane signage.

### **Land Management Going Forward**

There was a short discussion of the process for managing the property going forward. The group felt that the Conservation Commission spending funds that were entirely under its control and spending those funds for their designated purposes could rightfully authorize expenditures. We would rely on our selectmen's representative and our minutes to communicate with the selectmen.

### **Pipe removal:**

Kathy suggested a project to remove the pipe from the old water system. Rick estimated that it would take 8-10 people most of a day to cut the plastic and galvanized pipes and haul the pieces to the old gravel pit. It is thought the galvanized pipe would break at the unions that join it into its 20' sections. A couple of Sawsalls would be needed to cut the two plastic pipes into lengths that could be hauled out of the woods. We set a work date of October 28<sup>th</sup> to undertake the project. The galvanized pipe might be sold for scrap.

### **Forest Management Plan:**

Rick has acquired an outline of the forest management plan we would need. It was provided by Swift Corwin, a forester from Peterborough. That is in the form of an email which Rick will (Done 8/11) forward to NCC members. Rick suggested that we discuss the content of such a plan and invite the Harris Center to that discussion. Kathy emailed the invitation to our next meeting to Jeremy Wilson of the Harris Center. We will try to draft a request for proposals at our next meeting. (September 14<sup>th</sup>)

### **Property Name:**

Should we have a naming contest? Kathy says she has some ideas for a process.

### **Mapping:**

Zach said he would like to map the trails and old roads on the property. Rick will give him a tour Sunday (8/13) at 10AM. Anyone wishing to join should meet at the library.

### **Possible presentation on dragon flies and damsel flies:**

This would be a talk at the library. Kathy to arrange a date in September.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 PM

Rick Church, Secretary