

Nelson Conservation Commission
Meeting September 14, 2017
Minutes

Draft

Kathy Schillemat called the meeting to order at 7:03PM. Present were Kathy Schillemat, Rick Church, Dave Patek, Gary Robinson and Anne McBride.

Guest in attendance: Jeremy Wilson of the Harris Center

Minutes:

Kathy Schillemat asked for consideration of the minutes of the August 10, 2017 meeting. Dave moved approval and Gary seconded his motion. All voted in favor.

Grants Received:

Kathy reported that we have received grant reimbursements from the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership (\$13,528) and the State of New Hampshire LWCF (\$145,000)

Coming Events:

Saturday 9/16 the Annual Meeting of the Monadnock Conservancy in Walpole

10/22 1:30-3PM Harris Center Annual Meeting

November 4th: The NHACC Annual meeting

Forest Management Plan for the newly acquired land on Osgood and Hurd Hills:

The balance of the meeting was largely spent discussing how to get a Forest Management Plan done for the property. These minutes reflect the “brainstorming” nature of the discussion.

Some ideas:

The Nelson Conservation Commission will solicit proposals from licensed foresters to create a management plan for the property.

Applicants for the work should submit management plans they have prepared that are representative of one they might produce for us. . These samples should include computer (GPS) generated maps and be written for properties where there are multiple uses – not just harvesting.

How would the applicant propose to work with us creating and managing the plan?

How do they work with clients and municipalities?

Tom Newcombe joined the meeting at 7:20

We should require that certain assets be identified on the property that might not be on just a “normal” forest management plan. These might include archaeological and hydrological sites.

Where are there good opportunities for the management of habitat for wildlife. e.g. old apple trees or blueberries that might be given light?

What is the forester's practice of working with clients once the plan is created?

Maps should be GPS based and include existing roads and trails.

Where are there recreational opportunities? What views should be cleared?

We should include the 11 acres the town already owns on Osgood Hill in the Forest Management Plan. Gary will get us on the next Selectmen's agenda for 9/20 at 4PM. Rick and Dave will attend to talk about including this piece in the Plan and ongoing management.

It may be desirable to include the 11 acres in the easement that covers the balance of the land, but we will work on that later.

The NCC, then, reviewed a list of licensed NH foresters to determine who we should ask for proposals to write our Forest Management Plan. We made a list of nearby foresters of whom we had some knowledge. We will probably choose six or less from the list below to send Request for Proposals (RFP). We will evaluate submissions and invite four or less for interviews.

The list:

Jon Bushbaum

Swift Corwin

Geoffrey Jones

Charlie Koch

Dennis McKenney

Mike Powers

Jeremy Turner

We will look for demonstrated experience and ability to work with towns including public meetings. Experience with diverse stakeholders is very important.

How do we create the RFP?

The Town has requirements we must include. Gary will get those for us.

We have the outline of what should be included in our Plan that we received from, forester, Swift Corwin in April. Rick, Gary and Dave will meet in the lower library at 3:30 on 9/26 to draft the RFP. Kathy will see that the meeting is posted.

More ideas: We should require computer based mapping, experience managing town owned property, managing lands under deed restrictions or easements, multiuse properties that include recreation.

We need to know what type of harvesting systems they have experience with.

How do they help clients develop goals for the Plan.

What will it cost to create the Plan?

What will the ongoing cost be?

It should include a "risk evaluation" like the natural diseases, erosion or flooding that might impact the property.

Applicants should be comfortable dealing with multiple stakeholders.

We need samples of past plans and references.

They should describe the process they'd use to create the plan. (We will be looking for an inclusive process.)

Plans must include the raw data underlying the summary conclusions. E.g. locations of data collection and the data for that collection point.

Sensitive areas like vernal pools and cellar holes should be located and mapped.

Next meeting: 10/12

Review draft RFP and revise.

 Select foresters to be invited to bid

 Devise a process for considering those bids

Trout Unlimited will come to discuss improving culverts on Brickyard Brook to facilitate trout migration.

Other business: Rick reported that he purchased three locks with common keys. He and David Voymas will install one on the gate at the end of Homestead Lane and give keys to the Town. The gate is actually on Ethan Tolman's property. We have Mr. Tolman's verbal permission to use it. It may have to be replaced some day and can be moved onto our property then.

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 "Candyce's News Letter."

Meeting adjourned 8:45 PM

Rick Church, Secretary