

Nelson Conservation Commission meeting  
August 26, 2021

Meeting Location: Lower Level of the Nelson Library

The meeting called to order by Kathy at 7:06 pm.

Present: Brenna Kucinski, Anne McBride, Tom Newcombe, Kathy Schillemat, Sarah Wilson, Janet Yardley

**Minutes approval:** A motion to approve the minutes from the July 22 meeting was made by Tom & seconded by Anne.

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 9 meeting was made by Janet & approved by Anne. Both motions were unanimously approved.

**Stewardship plan progress:** Comments from the Harris Center regarding this document were discussed. Anne will work with Eric from the Harris Center to iron out any final concerns (including scenic views) and seek final approval on the plan from the Harris Center. We are hoping that the plan will be good enough so they will be able to authorize the construction of the new Partridge Woods parking lot on Old Stoddard Road. The group discussed that this document is, and has always been, considered a living document. Based on one of Eric's comments in his email, Anne made a motion that the Conservation Commission pre approve adding the conservation easement monitoring to the list of Town-sanctioned uses of Homestead Lane in the Stewardship Plan. The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.

**The Memorandum Of Understanding and Agreement between the Nelson Conservation Commission and the Nelson Selectboard Regarding Homestead Lane** was discussed. Comments regarding updates that need to be made were noted by Brenna, who will bring it back to Edie for updating and creating a final version. Once the final document is ready to be signed, Commission members will be notified and they will need to go to the Town Office to sign the document.

**New Parking Lot on Old Stoddard Road:** The group discussed the issue of compliance (or lack thereof) with the Federal LWCF grant if the Nelson Conservation Commission signs the MOU for Homestead Lane document before the planned parking lot on Old Stoddard Road is constructed. The grant stipulates that there be two access parking lots to Partridge Woods, and this agreement will

officially shut down the Homestead Lane parking lot access prior to the start of the construction of the new parking lot on Old Stoddard Road. Anne will speak with Eric at the Harris Center to get the okay to proceed with the construction of the Old Stoddard Road parking lot (via the Stewardship Plan) so construction can hopefully begin soon. The group is hoping this will be ok with the LWCF. The estimated cost for this project is \$5,000.

**Service project update:** The barberry pull on Bailey Brook trail has been rescheduled to August 30, 8:00 to 11:00 am.

**New member recruitment report.** Kathy is in discussion with Kathleen Vetter for her to consider becoming a board member. Dave Birchenough is also under consideration. Tom will approach Dave to see if he would be interested in joining.

**Selectboard and Nelson Conservation Commission joint meetings:** It was suggested that the two groups could meet jointly periodically to update each other on any issues involving both groups.

**Trails Committee Meeting Update:** Kathy updated the group on the recent Trails Committee meeting regarding issues connected with trails currently connected to Homestead Lane.

**Upcoming training and networking events:**

NHACC 50th (in-person) Celebration at Bear Brook State Park will be held on September 11, from 9:30 to 1:30 (lunch is included in the \$15 registration fee for this event. Registration, which can be done on the NHACC web site, can be reimbursed by the Conservation Commission if needed. The NHACC Lunch and Learn 1-hour sessions (on weekdays) are good. The NHACC Annual Meeting will be November 6.

**New Nelson Conservation Commission Selectboard Representative:** Brenna will be replacing Gary as the Selectboard Representative for the Nelson Conservation Commission.

**Daffodils** – Sarah will purchase daffodil bulbs when they are available in stores this fall, bag them up, and distribute them to those who helped with roadside cleanup this past spring. Kathy will email the list of those who helped with the cleanup to Sarah. Kathy made a motion to approve that Sarah purchase the daffodil bulbs, and be reimbursed for that expense. The motion was seconded by Brenna and unanimously approved.

**Conservation Easement Property Monitoring:** The Nelson Conservation Commission needs to establish at a future meeting which Conservation Easement Properties the Nelson Conservation Commission are easement holders for (There are at least two...one owned by Judith Putzel on Lead Mine Road and one on Tolman Pond Road owned by the Shonks. It is thought that there is a third easement in this category as well.) The Commission should be monitoring these easements annually.

In addition, we need to get permission from the abutters to the Town-owned land on the Great Meadow on which a conservation easement is held by the Harris Center to cross their land to access that parcel for easement monitoring or other management purposes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm. Kathy moved to adjourn and Anne Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Minutes were taken by Sarah Wilson