



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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**Minutes
Tuesday, October 11, 2022
Conservation Commission**

Present: Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman, (Voting)
Jay Chrystal, Vice Chairman, (Voting)
Jerry Jaworski, Member, (Voting)
Dana Ketchen, Selectboard Representative(Voting)
Tom Rogers, Member, (Voting)
Drew Kellner, Alternate
Sean McNair, Alternate
Greg Martin, Alternate

Absent: Roy Wallen, Alternate and Brendan Denehy, Alternate Selectboard Representative

Dana read the rules for the Hybrid meeting:

- Any meeting attendees participating via Zoom are asked to activate the “mute” function until called upon by the chair
- Meeting attendees via Zoom must use the “raise hand” function under the “reactions” tab to participate in the meeting – and will be permitted to comment once and if called upon by the chair.
- Anyone providing comments during the meeting must first identify their name and address
- The “chat” function for Zoom participants will be disabled by the meeting administrator or otherwise not addressed; “chat” items will not be part of the public meeting/record
- Meeting attendees via Zoom will not be listed as attendees in the minutes (except Board members)
- The meeting’s physical location is the official meeting room. Should technical difficulties arise with the remote portion, the meeting will continue at the physical location.

Mail

The Board reviewed the mail folder.

Minutes

**Dana made a motion to approve the public minutes of September 27, 2022. Jay seconded.
Vote yes 5-0.**

Eagle Scout Update for Hobart Fessenden Woods

Tom said about three weeks ago Antonio Stevens and himself had walked the area of the Heron Rookery and Pout Pond and he would like to add signs with wildlife information listed for what you may see in this area.

Antonio said he has researched signs and handed the Board photos of the signs he would like to create for this area. **Drew** asked what material the signs would be made of due to the weather.

Antonio said they would be made of wood or Aluminum. **Tom** said Antonio has an interest in Birds and Amphibians in particular. The schools have been using this area for nature walks. **Dana** asked how many signs he would be placing in this area. **Antonio** said he plans to have about 12 signs. **Tom** said the sized of each sign will depend on the amount of information is on it. **Drew** said the Us Forest Services has some great information on their website about signs. **Buddy** said he is in support of this project. The Board agreed. **Tom** signed Antonio's paperwork as the BCC liaison.

Rail Trail Bridge Work

Buddy said while mowing the railroad bed and getting ready for the Ghost Train Rail Race this weekend a board was broken on the bridge. He called Amos White to come out and look at it and he had suggested a few other boards be fixed also. With the rain coming and the Race this weekend Amos had just done the work. **Tom made a motion to pay the invoice in the amount of \$150 to Bentley Management Group (Amos White) to be paid from the BCC revolving fund. Dana seconded. Vote yes 5-0.**

Buddy said he also noticed that the water bars were eroding at the north end where you come in from the Bartell Parking area to the Railroad Bed. Amos said he will fix that also.

Mary's Trail Parking

Greg said they have weed wacked the parking area twice now. Someone was not appreciative that they had weed wacked the wildflowers. The trail down to the kiosk is all greened over. **Drew** suggested that before spring they get a load of gravel for this area. **Dana** asked if this was to keep the weeds at bay. **Drew** said yes.

Greg said they have had a trail clean-up day 3 hours with 9 people , another 2 hours of clean up, and then 8 hours to get that trail spruced up.

The Board agreed they would need to bring in a load of material to suppress the weed growth in this area before spring. **Tom** said they could ask for a donation from a local business. Tom and Greg agreed to walk the trail on Friday to see what they may need.

Mowing

Drew said he received and estimate from Daryl Pelletier for a total of \$2,600 this includes. Field mowing two fields at Kecy Road, the Martin Field, Access Road from lower field around house to back field. He has also added material to add riprap to the access road for stabilizing. **Drew** will ask Mike (BPW) about adding the turn around in this area. if he would have time to do that in the near future.

Tom made a motion to allow Drew to approve the estimate from Daryl Pelletier for \$2,600 for the Kecy Road mowing and the Martin Field Mowing, rip rap to stabilization of the access road off Kecy Road, and to excavating and improving the access road to come out of

the BCC Trail Maintenance and the remainder to come out of the BCC Fund. Dana seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

Ghost Train Rail Trail Race October 15th and 16th

Tom and Drew agreed to meet at about 3:00 on Friday to set up tents due to the rain in the morning. The church is holding the spaghetti dinner from 5:00pm to 7:00pm on Friday 10/14/2022. **Dana** said she would try to sell some hats this weekend and she will be there Saturday morning to help with sign in. **Drew** said CERT will help with parking if they are not on a call. There will be a police officer at Mason Road then he will head to North Mason Road. They now have two sign trailers to warn people to be cautious and there will also be barricades located at North Mason Road. Drew mowed with the tractor to the North Mason Road intersection, and it needed it at that location. **Buddy** said they are expecting about 400 runners. **Buddy** still has a couple of hundred pumpkins to put out along the railroad bed.

Gates

Buddy said he has received a quote for the John Brown Gate also know as GB gates. These gates are 14 foot single swing steel direct burial gate and they are cemented into the ground. These gates are \$6,500 plus \$2,200 each to have them installed. **Drew** said they should see if they can find a grant to help fund this.

Overlook Lane Trail

Tom said they had talked about moving the trail at Overlook Lane. The owner of the property had it logged and would like this trail moved off their lot. **Buddy** said the snowmobile club is meeting tonight and he will have them discuss it.

New Trail on lot K-33 (Cumming's)

Tom made a motion to name the new trail that was created on lot K-33 as the Cummings Trail and the viewpoint will be called Marguerite's View. Dana seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

Comment for Planning Board regarding the Home Business proposal for lot E-48, 16 Russell Hill Road, Grace Retreat

Dana and Drew recused themselves from this discussion as they both live in this area. This is a proposal for lot E-48, Located at 16 Russell Hill Road, consisting of 3.719 is proposing to have a short term rental of two dome tents on their property with amenities inside the tent such as kitchenettes, enclosed bathroom, wood stove, electrical heating and cooling, and outside amenities such as a grill, hot tub, sauna, and fire pit. They will have a separate well and septic system for the two domes.

Buddy made a motion that the Conservation Commission had no comments for the Planning Board regarding this proposal. Tom seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

General Business

Jerry said he updated the kiosks with the new policy signs. He has also added a map of the Nissitissit River Park Map to the website.

Jerry said he went to the trail heads with Michele (Brookline Town Planner) so they can start the process of giving the trail head street numbers as requested by Emergency Management. They

started with the Whitcomb Bross area. The areas are flagged and E-911 comes out to assign the street numbers.

Jerry said he updated the website about the Stone House and explained that the beginning of the trail is town property and the last 40 feet or so is privately owned and not maintained it could be dangerous to get down there also to respect any signs that the property owner may put up.

Greg said Averill Road / Wallace Brook area has a buildup of material blocking the bridge. The water is about 12 to 18 inches higher than usual. He is wondering if they should address this area before it become and issue. **Drew** said he would meet Greg out at this location to review the issue.

Dana asked about the status of the Talbot Taylor Preserve Signs that would state what is allowed in this area. **Greg** said he is still working on the wording.

Jay said they should think about add a note on Facebook that explains not all of the railroad bed is owned by the Town of Brookline. North Mason Road thru to Scabbard Mill Brook and a couple lots beyond that are privately owned. Camp Tevya owns the portion from Mason Road thru North Mason Road. The Board agreed.

Non-Public

Jay made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) for the discussion of possible land acquisition and RSA 91-A:3, II (c) reputation and immediately adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Tom. Roll call vote Buddy, Jay, Jerry, Dana, Drew, Sean, and Greg all voted yes.

Jay made a motion to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes. Seconded by Tom. Roll call vote Buddy, Jay, Tom, Jerry, Dana, Drew, Sean, and Greg all voted yes.

Adjourn

Jay made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Drew seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman, _____

Jay Chrystal, Vice Chairman, _____

Tom Rogers, Member, _____

Jerry Jaworski, Member, _____

Dana Ketchen, Selectboard Representative, _____

Minutes prepared by Kristen Austin

Next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on November 8, 2022