



Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes February 14, 2017

Attendees: Scott Pim, Sarah Brennan, Liz Wilson, Sandy Goodspeed, Todd Hathaway

Absent: John Bennett

Guest: Karen McMillan, Dan Micuch, Charles Goodspeed

Meeting Called to Order:

EHS Education Partnership

Karen McMillan, EHS teacher of grades 9 & 10 and Dan Micuch of EHS grades 11 & 12, appeared to discuss a partnership with the ECC to provide educational projects/opportunities for students. Liz and Sandy provided an overview of our recent work, including on the NRI and trails. Karen and Dan explained some of their recent work and projects with students, including a marsh field study at the Burleigh Farm, vernal pool studies and the Hoar Pond outdoor classroom. Karen and Dan expressed interest in working on a project with EHS that is consistent with applicable educational standards and EHS' transition to a more project-based learning environment. Potential projects discussed included field studies and/or inventories of conserved properties near students' homes. We will keep Dan and Karen up to date with our NRI development with a goal toward coming up with a project in summer 2017 for inclusion in the curriculum in 2017-2018.

Library Addition

Professor Charles Goodspeed and students from the Commercial Construction class at University of New Hampshire presented a proposed design for a potential library addition. They discussed a need for bigger space at the library with more meeting rooms and better technology. A focus of their proposal was to include a greenhouse space to "expand the idea of what a library can be," and allow additional meeting space and use by the community for projects like community gardening and seed exchange. The ECC expressed general support for the library addition and greenhouse concept. The possibility of grant funds for the idea was discussed and Todd and Liz will investigate this further with their contacts.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 10, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved. Liz and Sandy will collaborate on putting the minutes from the November meeting which were taken by Gordon.

Trail Finder

Sarah reported that Fox Run has been completed and has been uploaded. She will be working on portions of the Rail Trail and possibly George Falls Woods next. Volunteer help with creating GPS tracks for existing trails would be appreciated.



Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes February 14, 2017

Secretary Position

Gordon Merrick has now resigned, leaving the Secretary position vacant. Todd volunteered and was unanimously elected as Secretary, with Liz Wilson agreeing to act as alternate/assistant.

Speak Up Epping

Sandy drafted text for a section about the ECC for Speak Up Epping.

Budget

The members discussed the possibility of putting together an annual budget so as to identify potential expenses and assist in long term planning, as well as provide support for a request for additional annual funds. Scott agreed to work with Sarah on putting together an outline of potential budget categories. Sarah will follow-up with Lisa Fogg about past expenses.

Kiosks

The members discussed the need for a new kiosk at Fox Run, and additional kiosks at other properties in the future. Members discussed how to pay for such kiosks and ideas included volunteer work with ECC funding of materials, potential sponsorship, Eagle Scout project or grants. Members expressed agreement with the concept of avoiding commercial sponsorship if at all possible.

Photo Contest

Liz raised the idea of a potential photo contest of ECC land. Other members expressed support for this proposal. Liz will work up the details for the contest and Todd will investigate any legal issues concerning photograph rights/usage. The goal would be to have something in place by summer with a submission date sometime in August or September so that, perhaps, students could have some type of project to work on during the summer.

Adjourned:

Respectfully Submitted,
Todd Hathaway



Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
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Minutes Approved:

Scott Pim, Chair

Date

Todd Hathaway 4.11.17

Todd Hathaway

Date

John Bennett 4/11/17

John Bennett

Date

Sarah Brennan

Date

Sandy Goodspeed 4.11.17

Sandy Goodspeed

Date

Liz Wilson 4/11/17

Liz Wilson

Date