



Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes March 7, 2017

Attendees: Scott Pim, Todd Hathaway, John Bennett, Sarah Brennan, Sandy Goodspeed

Absent: Liz Wilson

Guest: None

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05 p.m.

Minutes Approval

Minutes from the November 2016 meeting were unanimously approved upon motion from Todd and second from Sarah. John later identified a typographical error which was corrected by hand on the typed version of the minutes and approved by all unanimously upon motion to amend by Todd and second by Sarah.

Trail Finder Update

Sarah provided an overview of her work to upload trails and descriptions to Trail Finder. Fox Run is completely done. Most portions of Diamond Hill are completed and she has plans to complete work on the Route 87/Flood Plain Trail and Rail Trail. Todd will work with Sarah to identify other potential properties from the list he is generating regarding Town owned property/conservation lands to determine other properties that might be able to be mapped before the NRI deadline for data on or about April 15th.

Website Update

John posted a blog post about the book on "Big Trees" authored by Kevin Martin. John felt that it was a good idea to obtain a new domain name for Commission use (Epping Outdoors). Also, he will explore the cost and arrange for purchase. The next step would be to optimize the site so that people searching for things like trails would find the page relatively easily. The Commission also discussed making sure that the site is optimized so that people searching for "Epping" come to the site for Epping, New Hampshire not Epping, England. Once the Trail Finder data is uploaded, John can post links through our website.

NRI Update

Todd and Sandy provided an overview of the last work meeting held with Jenn Rowden. Jenn has made great progress on the draft and is on pace to meet our end of May 2017 deadline. She plans to have everything ready for our review and approval at our May meeting. In order to get everything ready, we need to have mapping submissions to her by approximately April 15th and text submissions by approximately May 1st. John will contact Kevin Martin about potentially providing some text on "Big Trees," and Sandy will contact Jerry Langdon about a



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separate submission on forestry or other issues that he might be willing to contribute on. The next NRI work meeting is on March 23rd at 7:30 a.m.

Possible Summer Intern

This idea was raised a few meetings ago and members generally expressed support, but question whether we can provide the organization, supervision, training and payment necessary for this summer. Todd will discuss more about the logistics with a representative of the Exeter Trails Committee, but it was generally agreed that we would not likely be able to put an internship program in place for summer 2017. We would instead, consider a potential volunteer work program for potential work on trail maintenance/reclamation and/or property monitoring.

Senate Bill 136

Sandy reviewed this new Senate Bill up for consideration in Committee on Wednesday, March 8th relating to setting limits and requiring state and local approval of federal ownership of and conservation easements in land. The Members generally discussed an overview of the legislation and the implications, including the fact that the NRCS has advised SELT that it will be unable to acquire easements in N.H. if this legislation is passed due to the proposed regulatory burden, but took no formal position as a group on the bill.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m. by unanimous vote by motion by Todd and seconded by Sarah to go into work session to review map data.

Respectfully Submitted,
Todd Hathaway

