Franconia Conservation Meeting.    November 21, 2015
Attending: Kim, Red, Angelo, Chris, Mary, Ginny, Eric, Kathy

Kim reminded committee members that information can be shared via emails but discussions and comments among members need to be in an open meeting format not through emails

Planning board / downtown property opposite Fox Hill Park
Discussion of a planned ordinance change concerning this property .
8 acre piece of property which included walking trails and is a wildlife corridor.
The ordinance is currently in draft document form. How to review this document and a concern that the public is not aware of these discussions.  Chris has attended the planning board meetings and shared many concerns about steps that should be taken before changes are made. There are consequences, ecological and dealing with the character of downtown, that need to be addressed...a fundamental revisit of the proposed document.
Development is important and going to happen.The semantics are ambiguous concerning cluster and planned development rules.  Density calculations can be very difficult to determine due to interpretation. There are septic and water concerns.
Lot calculations including wetlands and open space need to be addressed.
The Master Plan needs to be advised to avoid "unintended consequences"
FCC members in agreement to suggest the planning board slow down and reassess where the town is going.
We, as a group, decided to make a public statement noting we are opposed to the zoning changes as currently proposed. Motion made by Eric, seconded and unanimously approved:
"The entire FCC wish to make a public statement noting that we are opposed to the revisions to zoning changes as currently proposed. These draft revisions create a serious impact on the character and the ecological environment of the town of Franconia.  Due to the responsibilities of the FCC, we feel we should be an equal partner in the proposed revisions of said ordinance."   This note was hand delivered to Sally Small on Monday, November 23,2015

Lawrence property.
Kim and Rebecca Brown reported the property owners have responded with an offer, 10% higher being a " rule of thumb", that is thought to be acceptable to our funds available and other funding sources. Currently price of $152,750.
Opinion is that it is best for the town to own the property and for ACT to,hold the easement and the stewardship fund.
Rebecca provided a draft budget including revenue needs and expenses to consider.
There are crucial funding deadlines.  Sources: Mitigation Enhancement Fund, grants.
Process:  purchase first, offer contingency on funding (6 months), an enticement to donors, leveraging with additional funding, offer contingent on clear title
A public meeting must be held to make residents aware of this property and of our intentions to proceed.   Suggested date is December 17th.

Northern Pass.
Ginny made the committee aware that the town of Franconia needs to be more aware and proactive concerning the new proposed underground route.  It is proposed to be dug along routes 18 and 116!  She will research and discuss options with others to "bring us up to date" on information, suggestions, and directions  in which to proceed.