Franconia Conservation Commission

Meeting: March 21, 2017, 8 AM

Members present: Ginny Jeffryes, Kim Cowles, Chris Nicodemus. Jill Brewer joined via telephone conference at approximately 8:40 a.m.

Guest: Rebecca Brown, of Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust

No quorum for initial two-thirds of meeting time, so initial portion was informational with no official business conducted. Quorum present for last portion of meeting at approximately 8:40 a.m.

Jill Brewer is the new Select Board member of the Conservation Commission meeting.

Lawrence Property Easement:

Kim and Rebecca attended the Select Board meeting 3/20/17. Rebecca reviewed the Easement with the full Select Board in detail. A few housekeeping changes made which Rebecca reviewed today, but in essence the same Easement was accepted by the SB. Fransted Campground owners (Karen and Greg) were at the SB meeting, and remain concerned about beavers upstream. They want the town to be active in keeping beavers out in future. They also mentioned at SB meeting they want trails on the area trail map updated to hand out to campers, and the Fox Hill Park kiosk map corrected.

Discussion today about specifics of watching for threats of downstream beaver flooding, not necessarily keeping them out.

Rebecca explains today that normally an Easement document would not include details such as beaver management. Easement documents are longterm conservation conditions attached the property in perpetuity, regardless of who owns the property, outlasting current generations. So normally beavers would be addressed in the Management plan, but given the nature of downstream landowner’s concerns, it was added to the Easement. Easement and Baseline Report anticipated to be signed next week by Select Board, Conservation Commission, and ACT. ACT supplying both a PDF and a paper copy of the survey.

General discussion today of expense and expertise required to update trail maps accurately. We probably don’t have the resources to do this yet, but correcting the kiosk map is do-able.

Will walk Lawrence property trail by brook when ground dries up. Discussed wooden signs Kim makes.

NH MTAG grant - Chris continues to attend the Planning Board meetings with Kaela Gray, another next week.

Chris attended recent Trout Unlimited meeting about their survey of Ammonoosuc watershed culverts. Easton, Sugar Hill, Franconia invited to series of 3 meetings about specifics of culverts in our communities which were surveyed, with education about which ones are aquatic organism favorable and not.

Quorum obtained approximately 8:40 a.m. Official business commenced:

Kim makes a motion to accept the Conservation Easement for Lawrence Forest as revised at the Select Board meeting of 3/20/2017. Chris seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Wetlands permit training by DES at town hall 3/30/17, not clear yet how many other towns CCs will attend.

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:55 a.m.

Next meeting: TBD, new SB member Jill Brewer has schedule specifics to work around.

Minutes submitted by Ginny Jeffryes