Franconia Conservation Commission (FCC)

Meeting: Dec 19, 2017 8 a.m.

Members present: Chris Nicodemus, Ginny Jeffryes, Mary Grote (no quorum).

Guests: UNH Cooperative Extension: Amanda Stone (Wildlife Action Plan), Emma Tutein (Trails), Jim Frohne, Grafton County Forester (of UNH Coop Ext) (offers town lands survey).

No quorum today, so no official business conducted. Meeting today is an informational meeting with presentation by UNH Cooperative Extension about Wildlife Action Plan. They brought/distributed info packets for all Conservation Comm members.

US Fish and Wildlife service mandates every state have a Wildlife Action Plan (WAP). NH’s first was 2005, and updated 2015. Maps required to be updated every 5 yrs.

NH Fish & Game has deeryard information easy to obtain, previously collated long before the 2005 action plan. The WAP mandate triggered them to pulling it together with other data. Along with UNH Coop Extension, they gathered data from Audubon, Nature Conservacy, and lots of other local groups/scientists also. So WAP was the first full collection of data together.

Goal - Restore and protect habitats for threatened/endangered species. Amanda’s Threatened/Endangered list in our packets is a shortened list: includes only some of he species of conservation need but they’re the ones she is focused on.

Taking action for wildlife website: <https://takingactionforwildlife.org/> . Website distills the information for communities, conservation groups and landowners. Easy to use and access. The detailed Wildlife Action Plan is on the Fish and Game website – (lengthy and extensive, so there aren’t printed copies to distribute).

They also have created a set of 12 Habitat brochures developed over the years. Can use them to communicate with landowners about their specific lands. Don’t just hand them out to anyone since costly – they’re targed for specific needs. Free from UNH. Some towns have laminated and left at library for info. Jim has them at County Forester office also.

Note that Jim, County Forester, is a good resource for walking land and assessing forest health needs, wildlife resources, etc. A free service from UNH Extension Service.

Emma in charge of Trails initiative. Maintains and adds to the Trailfinder website:

<https://www.trailfinder.info/> . We can add out trails to trailfinder. Advantage of site is that she can take down a trail easily, for example when it’s unavailable due to damage, or logging, and then add it back. Trails are only put on with permission – they don’t automatically upload known trails like some other trail map sites do. Covers NH and VT. Good way to promote a local area, if desired.

Reviewed the 4 page summary of the 100s of pages of the WAP.

Communities Take Action brochure is about outreach, NRI, and Landowners take action – can be even small properties. Lots more stories on the website – recommends perusing it to see what places like Lisbon and Easton did with this. An example: Boards with pins and labels posted at town hall for town members to post their wildlife sightings in town.

She brought 2 large maps of Franconia showing areas considered of high wildlife value. One of the maps is less easy to understand, so she recommends if we use one for a public project, just using the first one. Recommends laminating one set to mark/up and erase. [Spent most of the rest of the meeting reviewing the maps.]

If we decide to do a Community Project, the first step is making sure we have an up to date Natural Resources Inventory. Can reach out to them for help about this.
Can reach out to them for any other assistance.

Next meeting: TBA, probably 1/23/2018 8 am if works for members missing today

Minutes by Ginny Jeffryes.