

Franconia Conservation Commission (FCC)

Meeting: May 7, 2024, 3 pm

Members present: Chris Nicodemus (Chair), Ginny Jeffryes, Julie Weisman; and Mary Grote by phone at 3:50 pm

No quorum until 3:50 pm, when Mary Grote joined meeting by phone.

Prior to quorum, informal discussions: Chris discussed of Elise's plans for NRI site assessments and need for more permissions. She plans to assess Wiseman Brook area, Meadowbrook area, and upper Ham Branch. Julie will gather more permissions. Julie mentions seeing wood turtles on her property last week and a year ago – shows photos, including one with a notched shell, meaning F&G counted it at some point. Ginny has been communicating with the F&G turtle biologist about other Ham Branch wood turtle sightings, and will connect Julie with him. Chris mentions possibility of doing a Franconia bioblitz for the NRI, and hopes someone will take the lead. Ginny has participated in i-naturalist bioblitzes and took a UNH extension course on running one but isn't sure she has time flexibility to take the lead. Ginny describes what she saw when walking Paul Foss's land across from Presby parcel by transfer station – excellent wood turtle habitat, good birds, evidence of recent flooding 3 feet or more above the top of banks.

Discussion of need for quorum to vote to send two letters which Chris drafted and distributed to us by email: one a comment to Army Corps of Engineers opposing the proposed Dalton landfill wetlands application, and the comment period ends tomorrow. Second letter is a support letter for a parking lot improvement grant application by ACT for the Cooley Jericho Forest trailhead.

Phoned Mary Grote on speaker phone to obtain quorum.

Quorum obtained at 3:50 pm.

Ginny reviews the details of Chris' draft letter from FCC opposing the wetlands permit for proposed new Granite State landfill in Dalton. Mary thinks it's a good letter.

Ginny moves that we approve Chris's draft letter as written and send it by tomorrow. Julie seconds. Unanimous vote in favor.

Ginny reviews the details of Chris's draft letter from FCC supporting ACT's grant application to improve the Cooley-Jericho trailhead parking area. Mary thinks it's a good letter. Ginny moves that we approve Chris's draft letter as written, and send it. Julie seconds. Unanimous vote in favor.

Meeting ends at 3:58 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 3 pm.

Minutes by Ginny Jeffryes