Franconia Conservation Commission (FCC)

Meeting: June 19, 2018, 8 am.

Members present: Chris Nicodemus, Ginny Jeffryes, Mary Grote, Art Daily (alternate).

Art has not been receiving any emails. Correction to his email address: same address but last name is spelled Daily, not Daley.

Profile Legacy Fund trail project update: Update/recap of events since last meeting: After the Town received a copy of a Profile Lake Wetlands permit approved by DES, a surprise to us as we hadn’t heard anything since last year about this, Jill Brewer reached out to her Legacy Fund contact for info. Per her forwarded email of 6/7/2018, she received an email late afternoon of 6/6/2018 from Tom Mansfield of DRED describing a revised plan for the Profile Lake Trail. Chris brought emai copies to today’s meeting to discuss.

It states the plans now include:

“1.       A foot bridge at the south end of Profile Lake to connect the boat launch with the Pemi Trail.

2.       An accessible path from the Old Man Memorial Plaza to the cove at the northeast corner of Profile Lake.  This path terminates just before the point at which the embankment from Route 93 intrudes on the lake.  The total length of the path is now only approximately 550 linear feet.

3.       An accessible fishing platform approximately 12’ deep by 32’ wide fronting on the cove at the northeast corner of Profile Lake.  The fishing platform is the destination of the accessible path.

4.       A raised boardwalk connecting the existing paved walkway to the memorial plaza with the Pemi Trail.  The board walk will cross over the wetlands associated with the inlet on the north end of Profile Lake.  Because of the elevation difference between the paved walkway and the Pemi Trail, it will not be possible to make this connecting route accessible.  A flight of stairs will be required to get from the boardwalk up to the Pemi Trail.  The length of the walkway will be approximately 150 feet.”

Today’s discussion: We have very little information about the process. We do not have any map of the plan. After retrieving a copy of what BOS received from DES, no map is included there. The approved permit adds additional info to the email that the fishing platform will be on 6 x 6 foot granite blocks. Permit # is same as last year 2017-00461. We will need more information in order to decide if we still have concerns about this project, as revised. Discussion about how to get more info on what the specifics are. We will request from Tom Mansfield the specific drawings of the project plans.

Easements on the River Walk plan – no new info as Kim isn’t here.

 McKenzie Woods 2005 conservation easement: Clarification of issue is that new owners like ATVs, snowmobiles, and they had expressed concerns to various trails-related individuals about legal liability if they were to run down a recreational trail user. Multiple parties involved with the recreational trails have communicated with them. No further communication from them after Chris suggested they review the easement via his one email to them, as a trails group member. Chris and Peter Grote looked for the 90 degree turn near the Wells Road end since our last meeting. After that, Red walked the boundary per his informational email to us, and he can’t find the specifics of that boundary. His email said he is going to contact Gardner about where that corner is. Since our last meeting, the Town Attorney replied to Holly that the Conservation easement indeed states that the conserved portion of the property is restricted to nonmotorized use. For now, we are continuing to watch that motorized ATVs aren’t encroaching.

Trails update (Chris): The Profile School trail plan ( between Profile School, Bethlehem, and Franconia) got a $150,000 grant from Dept of Education, so a group is working on the various components to get it done quickly, as there is a 2019 expiration date for the grant.

Next meeting: July 17, 8 am

Minutes by Ginny Jeffryes.