Franconia Conservation Commission (FCC)

Meeting: July 25, 2017 8 a.m.

Members present: Jill Brewer, Mary Grote, Ginny Jeffryes, Mark Ober

Guests: Justin Roshak, Littleton Courier

Minute approvals: Mark makes motion to accept minutes of April 18, May 23, and June 13. Jill seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Meadow Brook beaver dam update: Jill:

The people who did the pipe installation in Merrimack don’t come this far north. Chris did a kayak trip down the Meadow Brook from Wells Road culvert to Junction of Lafayette on 6/19 and explored, sounded depth at 70,000 cu feet, estimate was 2 acre feet, which fits Red McCarthy’s engineering estimate. Jill, Kim, Gregg Weiskerger, and Sean Sweeney (a hydrologist) walked up Meadow Brook from the campground to the big beaver dam on June 22. Sean took some pictures and said would need to figure out how much water and what that would mean. Next step would be to do some simulations. The 4 of them agreed that would be useful. That would cost $8000-$10000, which isn’t in any budget. Sean was going to get a formal estimate. But it wouldn’t happen till next spring. Then came the July 1st downpour/flood. Kim went to check the dam right after the storm and it hadn’t breached. Several days later Eric checked and said the dam is empty. Chris checked shortly after that, and emailed that it developed a slow leak, that they appear to be repairing. Chris commented via his informational email that it shows the benefit of the riparian buffer there.

Mark talked to the F&G biologist for State. He and the biologist both think the dam should be left as is. The biologist also felt putting a pipe in would cause risk because that would be the weak point, and not helpful. We haven’t heard from Gregg Weiskerger.

Profile Lake Project update – no new information.

July 1 flood – Franconia did ok except that the Wells Road Meadow Brook culvert overflowed. (NB: Inaccurately called Tucker Brook on various maps). Town is going to evaluate and plan an approach. Will work to be sure it is a wildlife and fish friendly culvert. Funding may be a warrant article.

File boxes – Ginny will come in next week to do.

Crocker Property – informational email from Chris Nicodemus, who’s unavailable today, saying that ACT is closing soon on the donated 65 acre Crocker property on Rte 142. FCC to hold the conservation easement, as decided last summer. There will be a public ACT nature walk of the property Aug 2 at 3 pm.

Next meeting tentatively Tuesday Aug 22 8 a.m, pending absent members’ schedules.

Minutes by Ginny Jeffryes.