



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

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Minutes for Meeting on January 23, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Members in attendance:

Commissioners: David Drouin, Al Lefebvre, Richard Mellor, Rob Rubendall, Phil Simeone,

Alternates: Del Friedman, Fred Dodge, Joe Desruisseaux

OLD BUSINESS

- Conservationist of the Year update – Lefebvre reported that the Town Moderator does not allow awards to be made during the Rindge Deliberative Session (on Feb. 1). Discussion followed on an alternate award date where the presentation could be made and decided to make the award at an information invasive species talk by Jeff Taylor. See below.
- Wetlands report update – Drouin reported he had received Rick Van De Poll's wetlands report. Some sections of the report need to be printed on large paper. Mellor and Lefebvre reported that an "access key was needed to open added files. Drouin requested the access key from Van de Poll. The report will be emailed to members and placed on the agenda for next meeting. It will also be placed on the RCC website once all sections are available.
- Goals/plans/strategic planning for 2025 – Commission discussion focused on seeking volunteers to be trail stewards who would be identify a particular conservation property to visit a on a regular basis, keep track of downed trees, erosion, trail marker conditions, etc. and report issues to the Commission. Rubendall distributed a draft email to send to Corps members for their participation. The Commission reviewed and recommended a few edits to the draft. This process, if successful, will replace the current monthly workdays. The trail steward will be emailed to Corps members.
At the next meeting, the 2024 project list will be reviewed to assess completed projects and to identify and prioritize 2025 projects. Mellor mentioned clearing a parking space on Perry Road to provide better access to Mattabeseck. That item will be discussed along with other projects/priorities at the February meeting.
- Conservation Land & Related. After hearing that parking areas had not been plowed, Drouin contacted Gordon Services and asked that they plow the parking areas at conservation areas as previously agreed. Gordon Services indicated would send plows; Commission members indicated that plowing did occur.
It was mentioned that there was a Monadnock Woodbank that takes firewood and distributes it to people in need and could use it. The Commission agreed to look into issues for next year and to use wood collected at various conservation lands.

NEW BUSINESS

- CNBRLAC Draft Management Plan – Lefebvre reported that CNBRLAC has prepared its study on the status of the Contoocook and North Branch rivers as requested by DES. This is an update to the 2011 report. Lefebvre will email the report to Commission members and requested review and comments.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

- Chamber Newsletter article due Feb 8 – Dickler sent email requesting suggestions for the Chamber's next issues. The Commission suggested the plans for an invasive species presentation on Saturday, March 15 (3:00 p.m.) at the Recreation Center. At that event, the Commission will also present the Conservationist of the Year Award. The Commission however, was unsure of when the Chamber's newsletter will be available.

Lefebvre motioned and seconded by Dodge to enter the Non-public session.
Drouin polled the Commission and all approved the motion.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION per RSA 91-A:3 – Ild

Mellor motioned and Lefebvre seconded to leave the non-public session. Commission members were polled and all approved.

Mellor motioned and Friedman seconded to seal the Minutes of the non-Public session. Commission members were polled and all approved.

Upcoming Events

Feb 8 – Moonlight Walk at Tetreault Park (6:30 pm)

Feb 8 & 9 NH Audubon Bird Count

April 26 - Earth Day Event at Cathedral of the Pines

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES for January 13, 2025

Mellor moved to approve the minutes of January 13, 2025 with noted changes, seconded by Friedman. The Commission voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed. Desruisseaux and Simeone abstained..

NEXT MEETING: February 10, 2025

Schedule of 2025 Meetings: February 27, March 10 & 27, April 14 & 24, May 12 & 22, June 9 & 26, July 14 & 24, August 11 & 28, Sept. 8 & 25, Oct. 13 & 23, Nov.10, Dec. 8.

Minutes recorded by Lefebvre

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.