

Hebron Conservation Commission

December 16, 2020 - hybrid meeting utilizing Zoom

Minutes

Present: Martha Twombly, Suzanne Smith, Patrick Moriarity and Bill Luti (zoom)
Martha called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Minutes: Because there was no quorum present for November meeting, there were no minutes. October minutes were reviewed. Suzanne made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Patrick seconded the motion and all concurred.

Permits: Three Intent to Cut permits were signed by the Selectboard during the past month. One of these permits signed by logger, David Clay, is for a 218 acre cut at top of Hobart Hill.

Bean Sanctuary

Suzanne outlined the contents of a seminar she attended at the NH Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting in November. She learned that when a town and Conservation Commission have a financial interest in a conservation property and are the stewards of that property, the NH Department of Justice, Charitable Trusts Unit requires that a monitoring plan be developed for the property, and that annual monitoring be conducted and a written report submitted to the town. Any infractions will be managed and remedied by the Selectboard.

Suzanne explained that regular monitoring will put into writing whether there are incursions into the conservation land or not. Members discussed how this could help the Town in future years protect the Bean Sanctuary since the deed specifically states what is not permitted. Martha shared monitoring check lists used by the Forest Society and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. Suzanne shared a link to Land Trust Alliance about setting up a monitoring plan.

Further discussion about how to improve compliance with the no trespassing rules on the Bean Sanctuary ensued. Newfound Lake Region Association is willing to post on their website rules regarding landing on the Bean Sanctuary and hopefully West Shore Marine will add the Bean Sanctuary to their NO GO area map. Members need to formally write to both of these entities to confirm our request. A posting on the Newfound Community Facebook page and perhaps better signage were also discussed. Patrick stated that we need to pursue the support from Marine Patrol this summer. IE Travis doing ride-alongs with Marine Patrol.

Town Forest

Free firewood day was a resounding success. The weather cooperated, and Hebron residents who participated were thankful for the opportunity to gather free dry firewood and enjoy free cider. Logs were cut but not split, but that didn't matter. The larger logs which were too heavy to lift will be split and the gate opened again to facilitate their removal. Martha and Suzanne monitored Free Firewood Day and cleared branches from the field.

Little Bog Farm: The new dam on the downstream side of the culvert on Cooper Road has been removed by volunteers and as water freezes, this should be less of a problem until spring.

Selectboard update: Patrick explained that the Selectboard has been discussing and has determined that Spectacle Pond should be included in the Lake District. Presently the land abutting the pond is part of the Rural District. More research needs to be done on this. Discussion about what constitutes the "Lake District." Hebron's zoning ordinance states that the Lake District includes properties "500 feet from the circumference road." This would not apply to Spectacle Pond. The Selectboard would like the HCC to propose language to insure water quality protections are in place for Spectacle Pond, similarly to how the town Lake District does.

The Hazardous Mitigation Committee has hired a consultant /FEMA funds. This has been organized through Lakes Region Planning Commission. They will be meeting in February and he inquired as to whether a volunteer from the Conservation Commission is interested in participating. HCC members said they would be interested in participating and Martha volunteered. Funds for a clean up of the Cockermouth River are a possibility through a grant. Some work has been done this fall already through the town on the biggest snag.

Other business: Bill Luti term expired in 2020 and he believes he received a letter stating that he was reappointed to the Conservation Commission. Since chairs did not receive copy of letter, we will confirm with Karen Sanborn.

There being no further business to discuss, Suzanne made a motion to adjourn, Bill seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Smith, Acting Secretary

