

Hebron Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes October 19, 2021

Present: Martha Twombly (co-chair), Suzanne Smith (co-chair), Pat Moriarty, Paul Connor, Barb Kohout (alt), Debbie James (alt)

Martha called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Debbie was elevated to regular member.

MINUTES: Paul made a motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting. Debbie seconded and all concurred.

PERMITS:

Camp Pasquaney – Shoreland Impact Permit 2021-02864. DES approved with conditions.

CHARLES BEAN SANCTUARY – Members discussed the Conservation Easement Documentation Report reviewing it page by page, brainstorming on wording. Martha shared maps of water and natural resources in Hebron. Martha volunteered to begin to collate the report and related documents including the deed, maps, and related correspondence. Further work will be done on this project at the next meeting.

There has been no resolution on the idea to use trees to deter activity on the sand bar beach. Martha put out a request to have more logs trees placed on the beach. During the 2021 season, regular reminders by NH Marine Patrol to trespassers to keep off the beach did slow down activity.

Cockermouth River Clean up—Martha and Suzanne noted that many more trees are down along the Cockermouth Ledge Trail in the Town Forest. Trees have fallen into the river from both sides and brush/trees/debris have come from upstream and are getting hung up in that area. If something isn't done, the Cockermouth Ledge Trail will be undermined. Patrick stated that last year the town spent \$10,000 to clean one log jam adjacent to the Alexander property. He said that it has been challenging to get landowner permission to access the river in order to clean up the downed trees. Patrick suggested that the Conservation Commission come up with a plan prioritizing what needs to be done and get estimates from a vendor who can do the work, and then go to the town to request funding. Paul expressed concern about cutting trees which overhang the river because of fuel oil discharge. A professional would be needed to do this job.

Other business:

BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT ISSUE: Due to an error years ago, a 30 x 50 foot parcel, which is underneath the Hebron library, was never transferred to the town's ownership although both parties thought it had been. Patrick explained that the error became known when the property was recently surveyed. All parties agree to the boundary line adjustment. The Planning Board and the Conservation Commission are required to approve the transaction. Then a public hearing will be held and the transaction will be finalized.

Debbie moved and Paul seconded that we approve the transaction/the boundary line adjustment of the 30x50 foot parcel from the Olive Branch Grange to the Town of Hebron. All members concurred. Suzanne will send a note to the Town Administrator and Selectboard notifying them that we approve.

Spectacle Pond Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) - Martha shared this year's VLAP report. Although volunteers gather the samples, the Hebron Conservation Commission pays for the lab analysis. Beginning in 2022, the Groton Conservation Commission will share this cost with us.

TOWN FOREST— Martha brought up that soon after Ben Hall repaired the washout on the road into the forest, a storm washed away the hard work. The culverts which run under the road are in good shape, but they are becoming blocked by storm runoff from the road and are not draining properly. Paul said that his tractor was probably not large enough to take on this project. Martha will call Ben Hall about this.

Tuesday HCC members and one "Friend of Hebron Town Forest" worked for almost 4 hours digging up invasive species along the road entering the forest. Species included: bittersweet, barberry, autumn olive, and burning bush. Another work day will be scheduled in the next few weeks—weather permitting. Ideally it would be great to finish along the access way to the bridge. This will be a life-long endeavor.

Suzanne made a motion to adjourn and Debbie seconded. All concurred. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Smith, Secretary