

Hebron Conservation Commission

~~November 14, 2021~~ November 17, 2021

Minutes Approved

Present: Martha Twombly, Suzanne Smith, Debbie James (alt), Paul Connor

Guests: Daniel Moore (NH Association of Conservation Commissions), Tom Hahn (Forester, Foreco), Kevin Lemere (Foreco)

Martha called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Debbie was elevated to regular member.

Foreco /Forest Management Plan proposal: Foreco representatives, Tom Hahn and Kevin Lemere presented their contract with the town for putting together a stewardship plan for the Hebron Town Forest. Items which will be utilized /considered in formulating this plan include:

Dirt to Trees wildlife initiative (NRCS software program)

Forest inventory which was done prior to purchase.

Town's Natural Resource Inventory

Dr. Rick Van de Poll's Rapid Ecological Assessment of Town Forest

NH Wildlife Action Plan

Objectives in 2010 plan – What are goals and objectives now?

A complete copy of contract will be emailed to Martha for the Commission.

Considerations discussed included: Blazing boundaries that have not been marked.

Protecting sensitive areas

Tom suggested that long-term management plan utilize managing the Town Forest “with a light touch”

Foreco hopes to do a walkthrough of the property before snow is on the ground. He suggested rather than them doing the entire stewardship plan and then having a public meeting, educating the public and getting feedback during the process would be beneficial. This could include a public field session (possibly a before and after timber tour), followed by a public session indoors. Most of this would take place during Spring 2022. Another meeting with the Conservation Commission would take place prior to field trip and public meeting.

Tom said that a Wildlife biologist they have conferred with suggests mowing 1/3 of the field each year rather than entire field each year which could benefit turtles, birds and other wildlife.

MINUTES: Paul made a motion to approve the October minutes as amended.
Debbie seconded and all concurred.

PERMITS:

No new permits were received, but DES sent a notice of a Reported Alleged Violation concerning large granite slabs placed in Newfound Lake abutting the town beach but on Private

property. Martha and Suzanne have been included on an email chain and explained the situation as they know it. During Spring 2021, Hebron Beach Committee members placed large granite slabs extending from the beach into the waters of Newfound Lake to see if they would prevent erosion. Unfortunately, they placed these slabs on private property and additionally, a permit would have been needed from DES to do this and none was applied for. Owners of the Speranza property hired Kristine McLaughlin, a lawyer who wrote a letter to the town and also to DES which resulted in this notice of Reported Alleged Violation.

Alexandra Victor T. Edsall – 287 West Shore Road (former Snug Harbor/Twombly property)
DES Shoreland Permit File No. 2021-02757 DES accepted the plan with conditions.

NHACC - Daniel Moore, a member of the Board of Directors at NHACC presented information which pertains to local commissions and which includes 3 goals from the 2020 NHACC Strategic Plan. (see attached)

Mr. Moore shared information which his town (New Hampton) and other Commissions have initiated to further conservation in their communities. This included some discussion of how to use the Land Use Change Tax. Hebron's Conservation Fund (overseen by Conservation Commission) presently receives 50 percent of funds received by town when property moves from current use status to being developed. Commissions are not required to use these funds solely for purchasing land, but we need to review the statute to make sure that we are abiding by the law. Martha commented that because of Hebron's low property taxes, much of the open land is not in current use resulting in very little movement which would result in land use change taxes paid to the town.

Martha stated that we are working on the Baseline Documentation Report for the Bean Sanctuary and Mr. Moore thought that if hiring a person to do assessments was needed, that might be something which the "Conservation Fund" money could be used for.

Mr. Moore asked if Hebron's Commission would be interested in doing regional meetings? And/or getting together with other local commissions with similar interests? Hebron and other Newfound area Commissions have gotten together to sponsor presentations in the past, but not recently.

He suggested that Commissioners plan 3-5 years ahead when they have projects in mind.

Members thanked Daniel for visiting and for updating us on the state organization.

Bean Sanctuary: Martha shared draft she put together for the Conservation Easement Baseline Documentation Report for members to review. More discussion at the next meeting

There will be no December meeting because of the holidays.

There being no further business necessary to discuss and because of no heat in the building, Suzanne made a motion to adjourn. Debbie seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smith