

Hebron Conservation Commission Minutes-approved
Meeting April 19, 2023

Martha Twombly called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Present: Suzanne Smith and Martha Twombly (co-chairs), Paul Connor and Barbara Kohout (alt).

Approval of minutes: Paul made a motion to accept the minutes. Suzanne seconded. All concurred.

Permits:

DES: Beach replenishment application from Stone Gate Acres. Applicant Carolyn O'Brien

DES: Shoreland Permit submitted during the winter. Now approved with conditions.

137 West Shore Road Tax map 18, Lot 17. This permit brought up the issue of the HCC not receiving SWQP applications

Mail:

In March, a letter was sent to the Selectboard (HCC copied) from attorney for Beth Rolffs, owner of Little Bog Farm LLC, requesting that the town repair the road since it is a Class 5 road. Since then the Selectboard has proposed changing the road status to Class 6 which means the owner will be responsible for all maintenance and repairs of that portion of Cooper Road beyond the town shed. The issue is now in the hands of the attorneys. This proposal could result in a warrant article at town meeting.

Hebron Town Forest:

Members reviewed Snowhawk LLC aka Lew Shelley's trail assessment of the portion of the Cockermouth Ledge Trail which is deteriorating because of weather events and heavy use by walkers. He recommends relocating that portion to higher ground. Members will work with local trail workers/builders to accomplish this.

Mr. Shelley also inspected a possible loop from the commonly called the "White Trail" down to a pond overlook on the north side of the pond. He flagged the area for future work by members and volunteers OR he may be contracted to do the work when his schedule allows.

Martha suggested meeting Thursday mornings to do trail work during the month of May. These would be scheduled for 9 am to noon.

Thursday, May 11 – trail raking "clip and rake" Friends of the Town Forest will be invited.

(Hebron Town Meeting 7 pm)

Thursday, May 18 – "clip and rake" and

Saturday, June 3 – All Friends invited for traditional "clip and rake."

During these work sessions, hazard trees will be flagged and possibly work begin on relocation of Cockermouth Ledge Trail.

Suzanne will send invitation to the Friends. Martha will accept rsvps.

Charles Bean Sanctuary—Discussion of signage and other deterrents to people landing on the beaches will be continued at May meeting.

Barb inquired about a tree that has fallen across the snowmobile trail. Martha will reach out to David Lloyd at Hardy Snowmobile Club as they typically maintain the snowmobile trails.

Martha sent a letter to the Selectboard about removal of trees on CBCA along the road. Unclear whether this is Utility ROW or town responsibility.

Hebron Fair -- Martha suggested selling bluebird houses at our booth. More activities for children and Town Forest trail maps will be offered to visitors. More detail on booth /tent in the coming months.

Barb suggested a hiking program, "Hikes around Hebron sponsored by the Hebron Conservation Commission" during the summer months.

June 22 – Cockermonth Ledge Trail—listening for birds using Merlin APP (Barbara) Rain date
June 23

July 10 Juliet's wildflower walk –Meadow Walk (Suzanne and other knowledgeable volunteers)

August – Family fun Day hike TBD

Other Business: The ZBA will be meeting at 6 pm on April 25 to review the Downey's new proposal for putting a roof on the unpermitted, non-conforming platform which sits 4' from the Town Forest boundary. HCC sent a letter to the ZBA expressing our concerns and including a informative brochure from DES which clarifies whether a SWQPA application is required. Members reviewed "Downey Gazebo Proposals."

Paul made motion to close the meeting. Barb seconded. All concurred. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smith, Secretary