

Francestown Conservation Commission Minutes – Monday Jan 8, 2024

Betsy called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Members in attendance: Betsy Hardwick, Robin Haubrich, Jim St. Jean, Elizabeth Hunter Lavallee, Dennis Rodier, Don Crooker, Anna Dingman (alternate)

Notice and Announcements:

We received a notice via email from the UNH Cooperative Extension regarding the 2024 Coverts Project, which lists educational webinars and resources that are available through the program.

Minutes:

The December minutes were approved without objection, as amended to clarify the type of cameras Barry Wicklow is purchasing.

New Business:

The commission received the proposed plan of subdivision/lot line adjustment for Tax Map 9/Lots 9, 26.2, 22.1, and 23 (Greenwood and Gilman). After a discussion, the commission agreed to provide the following feedback: a) The landowner should be aware that an alteration of terrain permit may be required if soil will be disturbed in the recently logged area beyond a certain threshold b) The driveway on the proposed lot 9.26-03 crosses steep slopes and a sediment and erosion control plan will be required c) The commission has an additional concern about the driveway on the proposed lot 9.26-03 in that the plan does not show the realistic length of driveway that will be required to reach a buildable site, due to the various setbacks and lack of identified building location. Reference section 5H of the Francestown subdivision regulations.

The full moon hike is planned for Sat. Feb 24 at 7pm. The hike will depart from Tim Coffin's house on Farrington Road. Robin will put something in The Francestown News and it will be posted to Facebook.

The commission received a contract from the SNHRPC related to the update of the Conservation Plan/Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Betsy signed the contract on behalf of the commission.

Elizabeth made a motion to appoint the subcommittee/working group for this project as follows: From the commission: Betsy Hardwick, Jeff Briggs, and Jim St. Jean. From outside the commission: Linda Kunhardt, Barry Wicklow, and Ben Haubrich. The motion was seconded by Don. The motion carried unanimously.

Next was a follow-up discussion on the need to install boundary markers at the Humphreys Easement. Don made a motion to add \$500, to come from the conservation fund, to the previously approved \$1000 for the project, for a new grand total of \$1500, based on the estimate received from Steve Perron. This was seconded by Elizabeth. The motion carried unanimously.

Next was a discussion regarding a section of Driscoll Hill Road, between the so-called “Old Highway” and Russell Station Road, which is currently a Class VI Road. There is a warrant article being considered by the select board to designate this section of road as a Class A Trail, which would allow the select board to more effectively regulate the types of uses that are allowed. They have asked for feedback from the commission. After a discussion, consensus from the commission was to support the proposal.

Old Business:

Barry Wicklow’s final receipts for the stream flow cameras totaled \$1138.60, which was higher than the \$1000 previously approved. Elizabeth made a motion, seconded by Dennis, to authorize an additional \$138.50 to re-imburse Barry for the difference, such funds to come from the conservation fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding easement monitoring, Jim completed the Varnum CE monitoring and will submit his report. The status of the Hill CE monitoring is unknown as this was assigned to Rich who could not make this meeting.

Betsy read a letter the commission received from the landowner who created the unauthorized trail on the Crotched Town Forest. The landowner has agreed to comply with the requests of the commission.

Last for discussion was the status of the commission files. Progress is being made and Betsy will continue to outreach to other commission members for assistance as required.

There being no other business, and no objections, Betsy adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm.

/Respectfully submitted by Jim St. Jean, Clerk/