

Meeting began 7:00 pm.

Present: Alice Chamberlin, Michael Amaral, Nancy Martin, Phil Stockwell, Stephanie Monette, Doug Allen, Susi von Oettingen

1. May minutes have been posted. No meetings in June or July.
2. Chandler Reservation – Nancy received an email about trees down in the trail on the Chandler Reservation. Phil reported that Tory Meadows also has a lot of downed trees. Chandler Reservation trails will require some chain saw work. Chandler Reservation Board of Directors is planning a timber cut near the top of the ski tow and may take some of the downed trees near the timber cut. The Board suggest the Conservation Commission conduct a reconnaissance trip to ID those areas in need of clearing.
September 16 to walk the trails: self-guided woods trail to the Chandler Mink and Tower, and other trails if there is time. It's possible to take a GPS or have UNH digitize the map (helping with the Trail Finder project). Nancy will deliver three WCC hand held GPS's so Doug can assess their usefulness.
3. Nancy Ladd suggested the Conservation Commission sponsor a presentation on knot weed since it is becoming a significant problem along the Warner River and roadsides. DOT has a policy for ditching, shoulder maintaining, etc. for what to do with knot weed. Stephanie suggested inviting DOT to present their policy, maybe the town can implement measures to prevent the spread. Formula for killing knot weed - cut 4 times/year for about 7 years. Note, is knot weed in the soil at the transfer station? Need information on how to manage the soil so as not to further the spread. Suggest that we have the presentation during a Conservation Commission meeting. Will contact Doug Cygan (Dept. of Ag.) to give a presentation during the September meeting (Sept. 5).
4. Rail trail – Tim Blagdon requested a letter of support to assist with a wetlands permit for the Nicholson Holdings (Nicom) Property. Nancy wrote a letter of support for the permit to move the rail trail partly out of the wetlands (June 26, 2018, attached to minutes). Tim has requested a letter for the upcoming Knoxland Property wetlands permit. A letter of "no objection" will be drafted once sufficient information is provided regarding the wetlands permit.
5. Rail Trail – 2011 Master Plan Amendment – Nancy and Alice have had separate discussions with Ben Frost regarding addressing trails in the 2011 Master Plan. Master plan is in the process of being revised. To assist with grant applications, a short amendment to the 2011 Master Plan will be added regarding the development of the Rail Trail. Public hearing next Monday night, August 5 to discuss the amendment to the Master Plan (on the Planning Board meeting agenda).
6. Children's Brook update – Conservation Commission has turned over all of the paper work to the BOS. Draft easement for the town's parcel has gone to 5 Rivers for review. The document coming out of the final draft will provide an overview of the easement for the BOS prior to their signing the easement. The BOS easement language is different than the private easement.

7. Warner River – Governor’s bill signing to designate the river to the River Management Protection Program was supposed to happen in July, but has not occurred yet. Governor would like to come to Warner for the ceremonial signing. Money is available this fall for the Local Advisory Council (LAC), made up of representatives named by the BOS in each town within the Warner River watershed. The designation bill must be signed by the governor before the letter of intent for grant funds can be submitted. The letter of intent is due in September. If invited to apply for funds, the LAC will help draft the grant application (due in December). The former nomination committee is working with Senator Feltes to get the bill signed. Suggest staff in the Governor’s office be called to coordinate the signing with a celebratory event later. Critical for funding opportunities.

The LAC can get up to 3 years of grant funding for conservation activities and projects like invasive plant control, culvert replacement, etc. Conservation Commissions in five watershed towns are looking for people interested in becoming members of LAC.

This is the second year Volunteers for River Assessment Program (VRAP) have been collecting water quality data on 12 sites in the river. All information gets submitted to a database at DES.

8. Update on DOT surplus properties
 - a. Map 7; Lot 1 – No new update at this time. Because it is part of the I-89 ROW, will involve Federal Highways
 - b. Map 16; Lot 24 – No new update at this time from DOT. Some discussion about landownership along the old Rt. 103 – old Warner Road (still a class VI road). Stephanie will follow up with Russel re: history of ownership of road.
9. Friends of the Mink Hills on OHRVs – update
 - a. Meeting at CNHRPC, July 30, 2018 with ATV club presidents
 - b. Facilitated meeting between Friends of Mink Hills and ATV clubs. Meeting objective to resolve issues of ATV use. Landowner on Badger Lane is willing to block overlook to keep ATVs off of the private property. Work with ATV clubs to get the word out. Also will close Sanborn Trace off of badger Lane due to wetlands impacts from ATVs. – no objections from ATV clubs for these road closures. To discontinue Sanborn Trace, a warrant article must be submitted for 2019 Town Meeting. “Friends” suggest the standardization of signs across towns with each clubs name added to the bottom of the sign (to show ATV club commitment for trails). Enforcement is a huge issue – can only call local police for enforcement but it is difficult to get assistance due limited staff. Suggested to follow Bradford model with volunteer monitors to slow down traffic and ask for compliance. Next steps – invite someone from Fish and Game to discuss enforcement. “Friends” suggested that the police be made aware that landowners will call the police and a record should be made of the complaints to the police. Bradford BOS will put the question of opening roads to ATVs on 2019 Town Meeting warrant.

It was suggested that a letter to the BOS regarding Davis Road extension, that considers asking for a warrant article to close the road because of the lack of a bridge and impacts to the stream. Susi to follow up on drafting language for closing the roads. Future site visit?

Survey of Mink Hill landowners results – suggest getting a summary of the survey as a presentation to the Conservation Commission at next meeting.

10. Old Business

- a. ZBA decision on manufactured housing on Schoodac Road
ZBA voted against the housing project.
- b. NH Forest Society Easement Monitoring – Ordway Woods
Conservation Commission notified that the SPNF wanted to monitor the property, off of Rt 103, the pull off by the tall pines. Will call Nancy before they monitor.
- c. Wetlands/Forestry Permits – Stephanie passed out a spreadsheet of timber harvest and wetlands permits (attached). Some harvests not on the list. Have permit requests for some but not all harvests post tornado. Reminder that Forestry Notifications are required for salvage harvests.

11. New Drinking water protection program for land protection to protect drinking water sources through DES. Possible opportunity for aquifer protection or town well protection?

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.