

Present: Michael Amaral, Ken Cogswell, Scott Warren, Nancy Martin, Stephanie Monette, Susi von Oettingen

1. Approved February minutes
2. Adding WCC Notification to Planning Board Applications – Ben Frost

Pro and Con discussion: Pros to adding the WCC for notification of Planning Board applications. Planning Board may receive information regarding an application from all interested parties. Interested parties may include the WCC as an agent of the municipality. The statutory definition of “abutter” is defined as owners of property that abuts the property under consideration by the Planning Board. There is a separate statute that requires the property owner to provide to the Planning Board all the names of the abutters, and additional interested parties or participants (engineers), including the holders of conservation easements (of that property), but does not specifically identify holders of conservation easements of abutting properties. However, what the Planning Board is required to do with this information is not clear, e.g. there is no requirement to notify the holder of the conservation easement (aka the WCC). Ben Frost would like to present a proposal to the Board – that the WCC receives notice of applications just as the DPW and the Fire Dept. receive these notices. Where the WCC is the primary holder of the easement, should receive a more formal notice.

Potential short-term solutions – The Planning Board will provide, via email to the WCC Chair, a copy of the agenda that notes the address and a short description of what is being proposed of the properties with applications under consideration.

3. DOT Response to I-89 Project Concerns

The WCC received an email from the Town Administrator regarding signing of the ROW easements for the I-89 repairs. WCC raised some concerns about specific activities proposed by the NHDOT. The WRLAC has received some responses from the NHDOT, but not all issues were addressed. Signing the ROW is held off until all WCC concerns have been addressed. Suggest the NHDOT and the WCC meet to discuss concerns. WCC will provide a list of remediation sites by the end of the week to obtain mitigation funds, and WCC will work with the WRLAC.

4. Knoxland Equipment Easement

Ongoing concern about the request for agriculture and forestry uses in the conservation easement that is the mitigation for wetland fill proposed for the expansion. Michael Amaral will reach out to Lori Sommer at DES to discuss the easement language.

5. Map of Warner’s Conserved Lands for Town Meeting

Will request that the Children’s Brook conservation easement be redrawn to reflect the acres under easement only.

6. Closing on Fredrick's Property – Map 7; Lot 52 – Done, no further discussion
7. Warrant Article 19 – Eliza Sanborn Trace
  - Class VI road, dead end, under water much of the time (see page 68 of the Annual Report)
8. Friends of the Mink Hills – Update
  - February 26 in the legislature had a number of bills addressing OHRVs. Hearing was followed by articles in several newspapers. Recent Friends meeting focused on efforts to develop plans for balanced, multiple uses of the Mink Hills.
9. Update on DOT surplus riverfront lots
  - Map 7; Lot 1
  - Map 16; Lot 24 Communication with NH DOT
    - Suggest looking at these two properties as qualifying mitigation sites for the I-89 project. WRLAC is assisting with completion of ARM Fund application that prioritizes projects that qualify for mitigation resulting from DOT's I-89 construction project.
10. Wetlands/Forestry Permits
  - Only permit is the Chandler Reservation timber harvest this month.
11. Old/New Business
  - NH Conservation Crew Assistance/Chandler Reservation Tree Removal and Trail Reconstruction – Carl Beverly, discussion about the scope of the timber removal activities at the Chandler Reservation (by Ski Tow). Raised concerns about the implementation of the timber activities –noted that buffers around streams and town roads following Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be implemented. Should protect the trails in addition to the watershed. This discussion is based on an email exchange in February between the WCC, Mr. Beverly and Tim Wallace (Forester for the Chandler Reservation). Michael Amaral summarized the WCC participation in an earlier review of the fallen trees that were affecting the trails. The area has been affected by the more extensive tree removal than was initially presented. There is now an opportunity to provide some public education about the impacts of severe weather (hurricanes, storms) on our forests. Just received notification that the SCA New Hampshire Americorps are available to provide assistance in trail reconstruction. Letter submitted to the WCC records.

Nancy will contact the Chair of the Chandler Reservation to see if the Reservation has an interest in utilizing the SCA New Hampshire Americorps for trail reconstruction.

  - WCC appointments
    - Scott Warren, Alice Chamberlin and Susi von Oettingen have volunteered to remain on the WCC (and be reappointed).

- Request for a WCC member to be present at the Planning Board meetings, looking for a WCC volunteer.
  
- Monitoring Easements in 2019
  - Carter/Karrick – Stephanie Monette, Nancy Martin, Ken Cogswell
  - McCausland – Scott Warren, Susi von Oettingen
  - MKIM - current
  - Sturms – Nancy Martin, Ken Cogswell
  - RAW – Susi von Oettingen
  - Nemeč – Nancy Martin, Stephanie Monette
  - Bartlett-Stockwell – Scott Warren
  - Reis – Russ St. Pierre, Michael Amaral

Forms and files for the easements are in the front office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25.