

Conway Conservation Commission

WEDNESDAY, March 16th, 2022 6:30P.M. Zoom

Present: Chair Rob Adair, Selectmen's Representative David Weathers, Treasurer Linda Kearney, Peter Minnich, Tim Nolin (FLI), Peter Donohoe & Cort Hanson (MWVSTF)

Absent: Vice Chair Nat Lucy, Larry Huemmler, Dan Lucy

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Adair at 6:35 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the **January 12th** commission meeting were approved unanimously. Linda Kearney motioned to accept the minutes, with Peter Minnich seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

3. Reports and Other Business

Whitaker Woods Winter Trail Use

Peter Donohoe and Cort Hanson from the Mt. Washington Valley Ski Touring Foundation (MWVSTF) led a discussion about winter trail use in Whitaker Woods. MWVSTF operates in partnership with the town to groom winter woods for Nordic skiing. The challenge is to provide quality snow conditions on trails under widespread use by walkers, snowshoers and dog walkers. Peter D. stated that it was his observation that fat tire bicyclists made up a small percentage of users, and that the heaviest boot tracking occurs near the parking accesses (Kearsarge Rd and Pine St/Rt 16) and condominiums in the SE corner of the property.

Peter D. explained options for consideration with accompanying maps:

- Designate certain trails for skier use only and others for walkers/bikers; plus some key connection trails for all users.
- Widen some existing trails to accommodate all users and allow better snow cover in softwood areas.
- Some combination of the above two options.

After some discussion, the commission requested a sub committee to refine the proposal and present to the commission for implementation next winter. Sub-

committee to consist of Nat Lucy, Peter Donohoe, Peter Minnich, Rob Adair and Cort Hanson.

Selectmen's Report

David Weathers reported that the Selectmen had received quite a bit of pushback regarding the proposed \$5 parking sticker for residents at certain river access locations.

Member Roundtable

Rob Adair reported on the MWV Rec Path construction. Clearing of the corridor was complete. During the process, town engineer Paul DegliAngeli had discussions with the general contractor about a location for log handling. Some miscommunication occurred and the contractor plowed the existing landing (no issue) but also the adjacent mountain bike pump track. The logging sub-contractor also established a skid path through the Sticks and Stones trail, bisecting the trail in multiple locations, across the power lines and into the landing on the Knot trail. The Rec Path project's construction plans did not authorize use of this and no commission members or consulting forester Tim Nolin were informed.

Linda moved to adjourn at 7:35, with Peter seconding. The motion passed unanimously.