

Conway Conservation Commission

WEDNESDAY, April 14th, 2021 6:30P.M. GoToMeeting

Present: Chair Rob Adair, Vice Chair Nat Lucy, Treasurer Linda Kearney, Selectmen's Representative David Weathers, Peter Minnich, Larry Huemmler, Dan Lucy, Tim Nolan, Bob Cottrell

Absent: N/A

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Adair at 6:30pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the **March 10th** commission meeting were approved unanimously with no edits.

Linda Kearney motioned to accept the minutes, with David Weathers seconding.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

3. Reports and Other Business

Membership Updates

Both Pat Ferland and Sarah Frechete resigned their positions, with Peter Minnich becoming a full voting member.

Red Stone Quarry Interpretive Signs

Bob Cottrell approached the commission with a plan for an update to the Redstone Quarry property. As curator of the Henney History Room at the Conway Public Library, he had prepared much information about the history of the property.

The main concerns of the commission were the cost of the signage (as the budget for the year has already been written), the risk of graffiti, and the danger of the signs becoming the focus of the site. Another concern was the material of the signs themselves, though it was shortly determined that getting a quality metal sign that would last a longer time was the best choice.

It was eventually decided that in order to reduce costs and prevent the signs from breaking up the site, QR code signs would be used; however, with the matter of the funding for the project still unanswered, no motions were made. Rob Adair decided to talk to the town manager about the potential for funding from a grant provided for signage and bog bridging in the past.

Pudding Pond Forestry Project

Next on the agenda was an update about the forestry project on the Pudding Pond lands. Tim Nolin with Forest Land Improvement updated the commission on his evaluation.

The commission has been given position and management of the Pudding Pond lands, but not ownership. Within the terms of the arrangement, forest improvement is within its bounds. Tim expressed great optimism about the project itself, though communications with NHDOT had been a source of difficulty. He expressed the potential for helping the wildlife habitats in the property, while providing a timber harvest. David Weathers mentioned that having Paul DegliAngeli, the town public works director, speak with DOT and serve as a liaison may help expedite the process.

There was a brief discussion about a clause in the contract dealing with one of the DOT stations receiving 30% of the firewood harvest, the logistics of removing the timber from the site, and what the commission was obligated to do with the money gained by the sale. David told the commission he would update the selectmen on the project.

After this, the commission had a brief discussion about the nature of the project itself. Linda Kearney and Nat Lucy expressed concerns that the commission was essentially timber harvesting, and that they were unsure what the point of raising the funds by the sale was. After a brief discussion, the commission came to the conclusion that the reasoning for the forestry was to get the land moving in the right direction as far as its management is concerned, as it is unknown how much longer the commission will have jurisdiction over the land. Forest management was part of the agreement with the DOT. In addition, with the property itself potentially going up for sale (and a tight commission budget), it was decided that raising the funds is a good idea.

Tim Nolan explained that there were to be 50ft buffer zones around the trails that run through the property, so as to preserve them and leave them undisturbed.

The commission remained unsure about the future of the property in regards to the DOT, but nevertheless voted to undertake forest management activities on the site. The motion was made by Larry Huemmler, with David Weathers seconding. It passed unanimously.

Bog Bridge Replacement

White Mountain NEMBA did some bog bridge replacement in the Pudding Pond lands. They approached the commission for their approval of their

application to NEMBA for a 500\$ grant. Linda Kearney motioned to support them, with Nat Lucy seconding.

Walker Pond Interpretive Signs

The Walker Pond interpretive signs that were built at least 20 years ago are in rough shape. Rob went to the site and reported to the commission that though the signs were legible, they had severe discoloration and were faded. Bob noted that the signs were open at the top, which may lead rain to make its way into the print behind the plexiglass. Linda mentioned that she had brought this issue to the attention of the commission in the past, and that the signs were not very noticeable. Rob took it upon himself to go to the site and take a closer look, as the site would no longer have snow on it and he would be able to get a clearer picture of the work that needed to be done.

Selectmen's Report: David Weathers

David Weathers informed the commission that no new dredge-and-fill permits had been filed, and that the boat launch at Conway Lake would have a 100\$ charge for nonresidents from this point onward to prevent overuse.

Member Roundtable

The member roundtable was kept rather short and sweet, as the meeting had already provided much to discuss. After a brief discussion about NHDOT and Rob's upcoming vacation, Larry Huemmler motioned to adjourn, with David Weather seconding.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.