

## NCC Minutes 6/26/23

Open meeting 7:02 p.m.

Present: A. Watts, C. Griffith, J. Couture, L. Hill, F. Hayden, Sel. M. Kessler  
Guests Bill Meserve and Bob Eliot

### 1) Administrative Business:

- a) Minutes 5/15/23: J. Couture motions to accept, C. Griffith seconds, all in favor YES.
- b) Treasurer's report: J. Couture motions to accept, F. Hayden seconds, all in favor YES.

### 2) New Business:

#### a) Public comment on the Piscassic Greenway Management Plan

A. Watts- this is for the public as well as the Conservation Commission.

- the Greenway was conserved in 2006. SELT owns the property with several entities holding the easements. It has grown to almost 500 acres with about 75% in Newfields and 25% in Newmarket. SELT is required to update the management plan every 10-15 years.

- the committee consisted of members from Newfields, Newmarket, Fish and Game and SELT. We looked at forest and other habitat management, invasive species, public and management access and trails. No real changes were made to the original plan.

- F. Hayden asked whether we talked about Woolly adelgid and its effect on the hemlocks. A. Watts replied that it was and we talked about how their disappearance could change the landscape. There is also work being done at UNH to try to treat trees. F. Hayden suggested that some of the larger trees be treated to act as seed trees if they are to recover.

- The existing management and public accesses will stay the same.

- Trails- the original Mraz trail has been rerouted due to wetlands and wear. L. Hill stated that the trail in from the Bald Hill parking area may be moved a bit north to avoid the fields and the wet conditions.

- A. Watts- Also trying to address wheel chair access and e-bikes. There are many restrictions written into the deeds.

- B. Eliot- He is very supportive of the Greenway but feels the signage for public access needs to be improved. B. Meserve mentioned the example of Durham. All agreed that the NCC needs to do more signage around town.

- M. Kessler suggested putting QR codes at the trail heads. B. Meserve stated that the RPC is a great resource to do mapping i.e. the conserved lands in Newfields. A. Watts stated that SELT has updated the maps and will be improving the signs for the Greenway.

#### b) Long-term Planning Document

- B. Meserve of the rivers committee and Planning Board suggested that the NCC and Planning Board should meet to come up with long term goals for conserved land, affordable housing, etc.. All agreed that we should start the process.

#### c) Evergreen Estates (Scanlon development) "conservation" lot

- J. Couture- the issue came up because the last lot in the development has been sold. At the time of the initial planning, an 18 acre lot was put aside as conservation. S. Mckinnon has looked into the deed trail but is still somewhat unclear as to who owns it and what to do with it. All agreed the NCC needs to be involved in the decision process. A trail that connects the rail trail down to Partridge Hill runs through it.

(2)

3) Old Business:

- a) Silverstein Survey update- TJ Moran will be sending estimate. J. Couture did confirm that verification of true north is included in the baseline documentation.
- b) Rugg- Appraisal almost done.
- c) Vernon- D. Durbin has prepared an agreement for the Selectmen, Vernons and NH DOT to sign which they are now reviewing.
- d) SELT access through the Girards- NCC members attended the Selectmen's meeting and strongly objected they send the letter to SELT but they voted to send the letter anyway. J. Couture noticed that what members of the NCC said were not in the minutes but Mr. Girard's statements were. This needs to be rectified. M. Kessler will address this at their next meeting.
- e) Halls Mill Rd. Class A trail repair – L. Hill stated that the repairs were done but the contractor went out on a different day than planned and unfortunately created deep ruts on the Neals Mill end. The contractor has agreed to repair the damage when weather permits.

Adjourn 8:39 p.m.

NCC member L. Hill, 6/26/23