

Meeting called to order in the BOS Meeting Room at the Milford Town Hall at 7:10

**Present:**

Full members: Audrey Frazier, Chair; Kim Rimalover, V. Chair; Andy Hughes, Becky Lorette, Hub Seward.  
Alternate members: Chris Costantino Guest: Janet Urquhart

**Minutes** from the January 12, 2012 meeting were accepted as presented on a motion by Andy, seconded by Kim. Unanimous.

**Discussion Items**

1. Hitchiner Town Forest
  - a. Summary of the field mowing history
  - b. The commission is committed to keeping the fields open creating a critical field/woodland habitat.
  - c. The commission will contact Paul Amato to formalize his assistance in keeping the fields open
    - i. Keep the stonewalls in place
    - ii. Tree clearing along the stonewalls to create a transition habitat from field to woodland
    - iii. Include a haying/mowing agreement
2. Pratt Property Map 45 Lot 02 Purchase
  - a. Audrey updated the commission on the status of the Pratt Property. The town will vote to approve the grant from the Russell Piscataqua Watershed Foundation. A condition of the grant is providing an easement on the development rights on the property which will allow passive recreation to be held by the Souhegan Valley Land Trust. This property is contiguous with the Sherburne Property purchased in 2011 and part of the growing Milford Circumferential Greenway
  - b. After town approval, Audrey will present an easement already drafted and accepted by the RPWF to Bill Drescher, town attorney, for review. This document will be presented to the BOS for final approval.
3. Abutter Letter
  - a. The commission has been working on a letter to send to all abutters to conservation commission managed lands. It is intended to be a friendly neighborly letter to remind homeowners that they share a property line with public lands. This benefit has property line obligations that are the same as if it were an occupied house lot.
  - b. Hub drafted a letter, which was commented on by the rest of the commission. Chris will work on the final draft for the commission approval.
  - c. Hub suggested that a map of the town land and the property be included with the letter to each abutter.
  - d. Becky suggested that the commission needs to work on a policy for handling property line encroachments. Chris will draft something for the next meeting
4. 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Hikes
  - a. Chris will contact Russ Dickerman, manager of Monson Historic Village for Society of Protection of NH Forests, about the upcoming hike in March.
  - b. February Hike is at Mile Slip Town Forest
  - c. Chris will check with Rec Department to determine efficacy of flyers. If a flyer is good way to disseminate information, Chris will make a few to post around town. Also, find out about using the sandwich board on the Oval the week before the hike
5. Feb 23 Work session will be focused on website design. What does the commission want it to look like and where and how should the content be displayed
6. Voting Day – March 6
  - a. Morning – Audrey and Chris
  - b. Afternoon – Kim, Becky, Andy
  - c. There will be a larger version of the summary sheet presented at the Deliberative Session on display for the commission to talk about to interested voters

7. Business cards available at the next meeting for any members who want some
8. Town Report is due soon - Audrey will review the draft
9. Trail Expo 2013 – Chris will gather data of the 2011 expo to evaluate needs for the next one
10. MCC lands update
  - a. Souhegan River Trail
    - i. Steve Trombly is working with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to create a river bank stabilization plan. This will be presented to DES for review and approval. The commission wants to be present at any site visits of DES and/or NRCS. Andy will check with Yvonne Beran, local rep to the SoRLAC (Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee) about any future meeting. Chris will check with Frank Richardson from DES. Part of the plan will be to establish a 35' vegetated buffer along the river. Steve wants to plant sugar maple – is this an appropriate species for along the river bank?
    - ii. The bridge spanning the overflow swale has been moved in recent high water events. This needs to be reinstalled and anchored better. It is also slippery – CLMC will need to address this problem.
  - b. Granite Town Rail Trail
    - i. Fieldstone Engineering submitted their report on a cost estimate for a tunnel at the Melendy Rd crossing.
    - ii. The commission requested a summary of the decision making for the proposed upgrades to the rail trail. This was done without a lot of input from the current commissioners who need to understand what and why decisions have been made.
  - c. Tucker Brook Town Forest
    - i. Hub presented a summary of the history of Tucker Brook acquisition
    - ii. The commission started to review the forest management plan prepared in 2008. This discussion will continue at the March meeting
    - iii. Chris will contact Dave Wheeler, an abutter who may be considering a timber harvest on his land. The commission could coordinate a timber harvest with him, as access is difficult into this particular section of Tucker Brook TF

Meeting adjourned at 9:40.