

Meeting called to order in the BOS Meeting Room at the Milford Town Hall at 7:00

**Present:**

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

Guests: Brenda Santiago

**Minutes:** September 2012 meeting minutes were unanimously accepted as presented on a motion by Janet, seconded by Becky. Unanimous approval

**Discussion Items**

1. Tucker Brook Town Forest
  - a. The commission received the timber harvest work order from Dan Reed. Audrey will contact Dan Reed to determine that he will manage the agreement with Dave Wheeler concerning access for the timber harvest.
  - b. Time line – probably won't be able to start the timber harvest until early-mid January. Dave Wheeler has asked that the timber harvest activity work around his Christmas tree business. This will also allow for the ground to harden up and reduce impact from the heavy equipment.
  - c. Eric Johnson from the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association will attend the November meeting to present his Timber Harvest Slide Show.
  - d. Audrey received a few questions about the timber harvest at the Commission's table at the Pumpkin Fest
  - e. Audrey summarized the work session/walk with Mike Sebas to see what he has flagged as a substitute trail to bypass the logging skid trail during the timber harvest. Mike is the trail manager for Tucker Brook Town Forest and has overseen the construction and maintenance of miles of trail in the town forest.
2. Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce Expo – October 18, 2012. Audrey, Chris, and Brian Hawkins will be there to monitor the commission table. The commission paid \$150 for a table. Becky will work on updating the photo display – Audrey and Chris will get her newer photos and photos of commission activity on the town lands.
3. Ghost Train Rail Trail Race – October 27-28, 2012
  - a. There are 150 runners registered for the race with 4 people on a waiting list. There are 41 runners registered for the 15Miler.
  - b. Parking will be tight but Chris has an OK from the Police Department to park along the road – staying off the pavement
  - c. There will be a race bag stuffing party on October 26 at 7:00 in the BOS meeting room
4. October 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Hike – October 27
  - a. At Brox – Audrey and Kim will lead it.
  - b. Chris will verify that Nov 24<sup>th</sup> will work with the Brookline Conservation Commission to co-lead a hike at the Palmer Reserve in Brookline
  - c. 2013 Schedule
    - i. January – Tucker Brook from the Boulder Drive Entrance
    - ii. February – Beaver Brook (north of Mason Rd) and Hitchiner
    - iii. Rail Trail from DPW
5. NHACC annual meeting – November 3, 2012
  - a. Please respond by October 23 – price goes up as of October 25; so Chris wants to have the registration delivered by Oct. 24. Also indicate which sessions you will be attending.
  - b. Tentatively, Becky, Janet, Kim and Chris are going.
6. Trails and Outdoor Expo 2013
  - a. Please send 5 suggested vendors to Fred Elkind to approach about participating in the expo by October 18.
  - b. Suggested presenters for the Expo – Eric Johnson of the NHTOA; Beaver Solutions

7. Patch Hill trail development – Bill Wichman from the Amherst Conservation Commission contacted the commission about some new proposed trails at Patch Hill in Amherst. Jon Thunberg, Vice Chair of the Trails Committee, sent an acknowledgement back to Bill. The Milford Commission will be glad to tie into these trails with appropriate signage once they are completed.
8. Beaver Policy discussion – tabled until next month
9. Mile Slip Town Forest – members need to read the proposal submitted by Bay State Forestry that is posted in Dropbox. Discussed the cost of the management plan – will be about \$22/acre. For discussion at the November meeting
10. Kaley Field – Nicole Banks, Rec Director, would like to have a sketch detailing location, distance and amenities such as benches, of a trail at Kaley Park. She is preparing for Phase III and will be shopping the idea to area businesses and other funding sources. Andy H will take on this project.
11. On a motion by Kim seconded by Becky – unanimous approval – the commission accepted donations totaling \$73.40 from the Pumpkin Fest to be put into the Rail Trail Fund
12. Rotch Wildlife Refuge – In 2002, the Rotch family divided up their woodlot located between Ruonala Rd, Melendy Rd and Rt 13 between 5 house lots, 40 acres to the conservation commission and 11 acres to the Episcopal Church. The terms of the gift were that if the Episcopal Church decided to not build a future facility on this property that the land would go to the conservation commission. Audrey was notified by the Episcopal Church of their decision to return the land to the commission. Audrey will start the process for the town, via the commission, to accept the land.
13. Trails Committee Report from Audrey
  - a. The Trails Committee is considering the formation of a quick response trail team for trail maintenance
  - b. Jon Thunberg is working on the bridge construction needed to span the swale just west of the MCAA fields
  - c. Larry Kimball is working on the ramps for the new Wheeler Bridge on the west side of the Souhegan River Trail
14. Beech Tree Management Workshop – Audrey attended this workshop hosted by the NHTOA.
  - a. She was shown 2 timbered clearings – the larger clearing had much better regeneration of early succession species.
  - b. Beech is not a valuable timber product – what is being sold is going to Europe for flooring
  - c. Knotweed treatment involves a first cutting in early June after full-leafing. Then a second cut late summer followed by a chemical treatment.
15. Pumpkin Fest was a success – the location was good and the public notice of our work was beneficial
16. Kim reported on the ZBA hearing for the Rounds (115 Badger Hill) Wetland Restoration project. It was approved by the ZBA and the Rounds have been given until October 31 to complete the wetland fill removal and until May 31, 2012 to complete the restoration plantings.
17. Interdepartmental reviews
  - a. Danforth property on Young Road – no comment other than concern of a return to earlier subdivision methods of multiple subdivisions of 3 house lots or less which whittle away at the larger parcel without any mitigation by preserving open space.
  - b. Colburn property on Osgood Rd – same response as above for the Danforth property
  - c. Put discussion of the Open Space Conservation District Overlay on the November agenda

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:20