

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

Present:

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

Alternate members:

Also: Selectman Kathy Bauer
Public Suzanne Fournier, Tom Gardner, Michelle Roseto

Apologies for absence: Chris Costantino. Minutes taken in her absence by Andy Hughes.

Discussion Items

1. Approval of Minutes: March 7th and April 10th meeting minutes were accepted as presented on a motion by Becky seconded by Kim. Unanimous

2. Review of Outdoor Expo

Synopsis:

- Turnout not as high as would have been desired (estimated 20% down on last year), but timing coincided with 1st beautiful spring weekend weather.
- Geocaching went well
- Very poor attendance in the afternoon. Next time consider bringing the opening time forward to 9am, and close 1hr earlier.

Discussion of timing:- general opinion was timing was fine; holding it any later in the spring would clash with too many other events. Becky suggested to consider having the event outdoors next time. Pro's and Con's were discussed. Having the event in March prior to Easter and good outdoor activities was suggested

Summary of vendor ratings ('1' poor to '5' good): 3 x '3'; 1 x '5'; 1 x '7.5'(sic) (very few vendors responded to survey.

Vendor comments:

- Would like to see better marketing of event
- Like the booths, professional setup
- 2 No's to question "should we do it next year"

Chris has sent 'thank-you' letters to the sponsors and companies who donated raffle items.

3. Discussion of ADA policy

Policy wording is finished. Now need to walk trails to gather information per policy requirements. This will be done during the 4th Saturday hikes.

4. Cutting Cordwood on Mack Easement

Owner is still working on tagging the trees they want cut. Once that is done Con Comm representative(s) will visit site to review.

5. Rotch property deed

Chris requested verification of her memory that she is to register the deed with the County Courthouse. The Commission confirms this.

6. Tucker Brook Town Forest timber harvest: No update, no change.

7. 4th Saturday Hike

May 25th will be at Brox. Audrey to lead.

8. Emerson Rd/Armory Rd/Rt.13 intersection development

Did not set a site walk per April agenda; we are still waiting for a plan of proposed work against which to visit and assess.

9. Interdepartmental Review.

No activity to review.

10. Brox

On April 30, 2013 Audrey met with Craig Rennie of DES AoT (Alteration of Terrain), Fred Elkind, Bill Parker, and Rick Riendeau DPW at Brox to review site due to a complaint filed regarding extraction work by town. They explained that:

- The pit is grandfathered in. Unless impact in changing terrain is >100,000 sq.ft (2.3 acres), the town can do what it likes and doesn't alter direction of flow
- In the vicinity of the 'berms' the terrain slope inward toward the center of the pit. The DES and therefore AoT have no jurisdiction. However, they did recommend stabilizing the wetland buffer by loaming and seeding with native species.
- The buffer work is already underway.

Audrey is to attend the BoS (Board of Selectmen) meeting this coming Monday (May 13th) to join the discussion on Brox Environmental Citizen's request for permission for NH Audubon to complete its survey.

11. AOB (Any Other Business)

a. Mile Slip trailwork

Written recommendations received on proposed trail work. Commission has two requests

- Could we add to the proposed signs, something to show they are hiking trails compared to snowmobile trails e.g. 'hikers' symbol (may be a waterproof sticker applied(?), like those used on license plates)
- Would like to see the existing trails signed as well as the proposed new ones

b. Brox Environmental Citizens (BEC), Suzanne Fournier presented a map indicating wetlands and vernal pools on the Brox property. The property deemed as commercial was surveyed by Suzanne and Tom as well as other another scientist, Cynthia Nichols. Suzanne praised the work done by Fieldstone who was hired by the town to survey the "town" portion of Brox. Suzanne asked why the Fieldstone survey did not included the southernmost section of the Property.

Suzanne highlighted to the Commission sections of the Commission's written goals related to wildlife conservation and actions to achieve those.

Andy Hughes said that he would like to see stated clearly:

- The specific goals of the Brox Environmental Citizens;
- Brox Environmental Citizens expectations of the Conservation Commission;
- What the Conservation Commission believes its role and responsibilities are with the respect to the conservation and development of the Brox Property, in accordance with our written rules, goals and objectives.

Suzanne expressed concern about motorized vehicles in Brox. She has been in contact with Officer Joseph Wilson of the Milford Police Department and Conservation Officer Todd Szewczyk of NH Fish and Game. Sign were posted by Mr. Szewczyk and enforcing against motorized trespassers. However some signs were in conflict because some say no wheeled vehicles and some say no motorized vehicles. In the few days the signs were posted they had been vandalized and Suzanne nailed them back up. Officer Wilson is looking for clarification on the property as he interprets the "No Trespassing" sign at Heron Pond to include hikers. The Conservation Commission will look into it.

c. Issues presented by Selectman Bauer:

- i. Selectman Bauer inquired if the trails construction followed any guidelines. Recently a citizen expressed concern over width of widening of rail trail south of Melendy Rd crossing. The Commission explained the trails committee follows a guide. However the specific section of trail was wide because:
 - Erosion problems were causing danger to users.
 - Scale of work required was beyond the scope of volunteers and was kindly undertaken by DWP
 - Width was necessary to for DPW equipment to access the far end of the section being worked
 - Vegetation will grow back quickly

- ii. Selectman Bauer asked whether hunting information was posted on trail kiosks. Hunting information is currently not generally posted. It was agreed that it should be. Since the hunting seasons are many and varied, and some species can be hunted year-round, it was agreed that a notice should be posted in all trail kiosks that hunting activity may occur at any time of the year.

- iii. Televising of Conservation Commission meetings.
Selectman Bauer asked the commission to consider having some Conservation Commission meetings televised. Commission to discuss.

DRAFT