

Town of New London
Conservation Commission
November 18, 2009

Present:

Andy Deegan (Chairman), Laura Alexander, Dan Allen, Bob Brown, Sue Cough, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Vicki Koron

Also:

David Cook, Bob Crane, Peter Stanley, Bob Steward

Andy Deegan opened the meeting at 1 p.m.

The minutes from the September meeting were accepted and unanimously approved.

Bob Stewart from RCS Designs submitted a design for a wet lands crossing Map 80 Lot 10, 1 Pilot House Road. The wet land is wooded and not a running stream. There is a culvert in existence that has been there for 30 + years. The proposed fill is 189 SF.

The discussion centered on the need for the least amount of impact for the lot.

A motion was made for a special exception. The motion was approved as shown on the plans. It was unanimously accepted.

David Cook brought to the meeting copies of the article A VERY SPECIAL PLACE from the SooNipi Magazine Fall 2009. The Cook Conservation Easement is the topic of the article. There has been an increase of use since the article was printed.

David also handed out copies of the Cook Interpretive Loop Trail. It is available at the beginning of the trail. The GPS map of the entire property will also be available on the town web site.

The news that there is now a cleared view from the top of the Pleasant Lake High Trail was well received by the commission and guests. David will contact Brain Faughnan from the Wilmot Conservation Commission about the cleared view which is on property owned by the Gregor's of Wilmot.

On the full moon in February the SGK will be sponsoring a moonlight snowshoe hike on the Cook Conservation Easement. The commission was asked if this could be added to our winter walk agenda...

There was discussion of beaver activity on the upper pond at the end of Forty Acre Road. The resident beaver has been trapped by a licensed trapper. The lower pond is stable.

This past Monday night Budget Committee meeting was attended by several Conservation Commission members: Sue Cough, Terry Dancy and Andy Deegan.

There are new signs on the Davis Path at Low Plain for x-country skiing.

There are reports of beavers flooding the Great Brook Trail. The trail originates in New London. The new dam is backing up water at the Poor Road sign and at Devils Half Acre. Both these areas are in Springfield.

The article in the Concord Monitor about Bogs in the state included the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog.

Trails:

Bob Brown spent time clearing and blazing the Lyon Brood Trail.

South Pleasant to Parkside - all the bridges are now gone. Chad Denning and Bob Brown replaced much of the board walk. The large bridge that is about 450 yards from Parkside will be worked on in the near future.

Michael Todd and Bob Brown will cut more brush tomorrow.

The Trail Crew headed by Dan Allen and Bob Brown has put down 6000 square feet of boards so far this year. There was discussion on buying the hemlock now so it can dry out over the winter. There is money in our budget for this trail work. It was agreed that this would be a good idea.

Trail Adopters have been contacted by Andy Deegan and he will be named on the web site as the contact person.

Laura Alexander indicated that the next CC meeting, the Colby-Sawyer students would like to update their year long projects, if that date is agreeable. It will be part of the agenda for December 16th and we will meet at the Curtis Ivy Science Center, room #113 at the College.

Dan Allen found what looked similar to the Long Horned Asian Beetle at Clarke Pond. He suggested we check the U.V.M. web site for proper identification. The beetles make holes in the Hemlock.

There is a new change in the permanent fill site at the hospital. This is not a problem as long as it has no impact on the surrounding wet lands.

Terry initiated a discussion on Japanese Knotweed and questioned whether it was considered an invasive species for lakes. The resulting discussion was that it is propagated by the moving water but it is not considered an invasive species for lakes.

On December 16th we will discuss the use of snow machines for trail maintenance, specifically the Clark Pond Trails.

It was voted on and approved by the commission to decide on a case by case basis the use of snow machines for trail maintenance, with the approval of the easement holder and/or land owner.

Laura Alexander moved to adjourn. Vicki Koron seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Koron
New London Conservation Commission

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