

Enfield Conservation Commission  
Public Works Facility, Enfield  
Meeting of March 3, 2016

**Present:** Shirley Green; Jeanine King; Alan Strickland, Chairman; Jerold Theis; Paula Gillen,  
Recorder

**Guests:** Alisa Bonnette, Maia Zawilinski

Chairman Strickland called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

**Review of January 7, 2016 minutes:** Tabled.

**New Business:**

Maia Zawilinski was seeking a Girl Scouts Gold Award which is achieved via accomplishment of a project of 100 hours' duration. This project could consist of assistance with refurbishment of Enfield trails or trail bridges, which Ms. Zawilinski viewed as a jumping off point to help get families active outdoors. Mr. Strickland mentioned several bridges require refurbishing on Shaker Mountain, including a concrete bridge behind the Stone Dwelling as well as smaller bridges on the mountain. Dr. Theis suggested the Harris Brook Trail could use picnic tables and Mr. Strickland stated additional signage is needed there as well. Mr. Strickland will contact Ms. Zawilinski in April to look at the possible sites and decide upon a project to be completed by the end of the summer.

**Town Meeting Warrant Article:**

The Commission voted on January 7, 2016 to make a \$2,000 contribution to the UVLT for the acquisition of 995 acres along Route 4A in Enfield. Shirley Green was absent from that meeting but tonight expressed her support of this contribution.

The NH Municipal Conservation Guide Book states that a conservation fund may be used for such a purchase, subject to the approval of the local governing body (a one-time vote of the legislative body is required) (RSA 36-A:4-a). Therefore, a vote at Town meeting is required.

Chairman Strickland will thus be presenting Warrant Article 12 at Town meeting on March 12. Mr. Strickland would like other Conservation members to contribute support as needed at Town meeting.

**Old Business:****Harris Brook:**

Dr. Theis compiled data from the Harris Brook visitor survey forms. This revealed visitors' ages ranged from 1 to 70; many were return visitors; and all were very impressed with the site and thankful for the trail. As the trail is not currently being overused, to further publicize the trail, Ms. Bonnette will add a link to the Conservation Commission page on the Town web site to highlight Harris Brook.

**Speaker Program:**

Shirley Green updated the Commission regarding a proposed talk by Henry Homeyer or Bill Warren. Mr. Homeyer would not recommend a talk on wild mushrooms. Bill Warren, Chair of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, is available to give a presentation entitled "Fuel for your Body and Food for the Trail". He would help promote the talk and there is no speaker fee. Ms. Green will check for Community Center availability on a Thursday evening in the spring and try to coordinate a date for the talk with Mr. Warren.

**Winter Hike:**

Secondary to weather conditions this year a winter hike was not scheduled. Ms. Green stated a hike will be added to the Old Home Days schedule of events.

**Correspondence:**

DES to Mark P. Yeager, Shoreland Impact Permit, Map #10A, Lot #46, to construct a new garage, reconfigure walkways and driveway, and install two rain gardens to manage storm water runoff, impacting 5612 square feet.

**Miscellaneous:****Land Use Change Tax:**

Chairman Strickland questioned whether the Commission should approach the selectmen to request a percentage of the land use change tax monies go into the Conservation Fund for future uses such as land acquisition, bridge replacements, dam repair, conservation easements, forest inventory, Crystal Lake study, etc. Ms. Bonnette referenced a report where the effort to give land use change tax to the Conservation Fund was defeated. She will forward this documentation to Mr. Strickland.

**Conservation Commission Collaboration:**

Ms. Green reported the Eastman Charitable Foundation would like to arrange a buffet dinner between the Springfield, Grantham and Enfield Conservation Commissions in the late Spring or early Summer to discuss potential collaboration between the groups. This could facilitate project sharing and offer other mutually beneficial opportunities.

**Watershed Grant:**

Ms. Green would like to explore the availability of a watershed grant and proceed with the application of such if possible.

**Furthering Conservation:**

Dr. Theis emphasized the importance of conservation of wildlife. He noted the deleterious effect of feral cats on wild bird populations and the need to preserve predators such as coyote and bobcats for their role in rodent eradication. Dr. Theis outlined the potential conflict of interest of New Hampshire Fish and Game as they currently depend upon revenue from hunting and fishing licenses while promoting themselves as a 'guardian of the state's fish, wildlife and marine resources.' He suggested the need to start a conversation on how the NH Fish and Game is supported with the decline in hunting and loss of habitat. He also observed that while the NH current use tax encourages conservation, 90% of NH property is in private hands and land preservation is important. All these issues relate to conservation. Dr. Theis underscored the need to better educate the general population on these myriad factors and will utilize the Conservation Commission web site to help do so.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m.

A motion was made by Jeanine King to adjourn. This was seconded by Shirley Green and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.