

Enfield Conservation Commission
Public Works Facility, Enfield
Meeting of September 1, 2016

Present: Gary Gaudette; Shirley Green; Sue Hagerman; Dwight Marchetti; Alan Strickland, Chairman; Jerold Theis; Paula Gillen, Recorder

Guest: Alisa Bonnette

Chairman Strickland called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Review of August Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Marchetti to accept the August 4, 2016 meeting minutes and the August 16, 2016 site meeting minutes as written. This was seconded by Ms. Green and the motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Harris Brook and Suky Marsh Trail Work:

Trail marking at Harris Brook has been done by Maia Zawilinski, a senior at Mascoma. Maia would like to continue to work on trails. She would like to freshen up and add trail markings on Suky Marsh Trail. When the work is complete Mr. Strickland will send her a thank you letter on behalf of the Conservation Commission.

Crystal Lake Watershed Study:

Ms. Green is preparing the 2017 proposal. The first application was denied as there were insufficient high quality water funds for 2016. Crystal Lake is considered high quality water. The EPA could provide funding for high quality waters or just for restoration. The DES is assisting Ms. Green with the current application to hopefully aid in its acceptance. The goal is to keep high quality water, high quality.

Harris Brook North Bridge:

Things have progressed quickly. Mr. Strickland bought lumber for \$150 and delivered it to an engineer who cut it to size based on criteria such as stress load, etc. Mr. Strickland then dropped it off at the site. Mr. Marchetti made a motion to appropriate \$150 from the Enfield Conservation Commission general fund to reimburse Mr. Strickland for this expenditure for the Harris Brook North Bridge. Ms. Hagerman seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Dr. Theis will assist Mr. Strickland tomorrow with the construction.

Correspondence:

DES to James Oehler allowing trail maintenance on Cole Pond Trail. Mr. Strickland talked with NH Fish and Game wildlife director James Oehler. He said he has appointed two people to work on the Cole Pond Trail. Craig Sandborn will do trail maintenance and serve as caretaker of the trail.

DES to Harrison Trumbull, Map #28, Lot #5, Mascoma Lake, shore land impact permit to construct a garage, install an effluent disposal system, and install a septic force to service an adjacent property. This has already been approved.

Intent to cut: None.

New Business:**Lake Mascoma:**

Mr. Gaudette stated the Mascoma loon count this year was 9 loons and 2 chicks. He reported there was concern at the annual meeting regarding low water levels and property erosion, and discussion about what property owners could do to help prevent erosion.

Mr. Strickland asked about the lack of water skiers on the lakes. Ms. Green suggested it was a sign of the times as there is generally an older population, while Ms. Hagerman mentioned the impact of the economy and cost of oil. Visitors now use personal watercraft as opposed to jet skis or water skis. Mr. Strickland asked about the cause of wake. It was explained that faster boat speeds create less wake as they skim the surface.

Island on Mascoma River:

Mr. Strickland suggested the island on Mascoma River behind the library could be considered a natural resource. Its ownership is uncertain as no one has claimed it. It has some high land and deer have been seen there.

Website Information:

Mr. Theis presented 3 articles he would like included on the Conservation Commission's website:

1. "Take a Walk in the Woods, It's Good for Your Health," synopsis of an article from Time Magazine, July 25, 2016, by Alexandra Sifferlin, explaining how spending time in the forest appears to induce a state of physiological relaxation.
2. "Help Restore Pollinating Native Bees," based on a study conducted by UNH, and containing information from the Natural Resources Defense Council regarding the disappearance of bees with methods to help restore native bee populations by construction and placement of bee houses, cessation of pesticides, and planting of wildflowers.
3. "The Importance of Predators." Predators such as bobcats and coyotes can help to break the cycles of a large number of disease agents that involve rodents and ticks, thus are worth

protecting. Dr. Theis stressed that accurate estimation of the bobcat population is difficult; therefore, the NH Fish and Game hunting algorithm may be inaccurate. Dr. Theis authored this article based on his 30 years' experience at UC Davis.

Ms. Bonnette will add these articles to the web site.

Visitor Log:

Dr. Theis reported the 8-month Harris Brook visitor tally. There were a total of 86 people, aged 1-90 years. The vast majority were first time visitors although a few had visited many times, and greatest use was during June, July and August. Curiously, there was a comment left by two adult females that the trail was "Beautiful, easy to follow" while two adult male first time visitors asked "Where is it?"

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 7 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Marchetti to adjourn. This was seconded by Ms. Hagerman and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.