

Kensington Conservation Commission

November 10, 2020

Zoom Meeting due to Covid 19

Members Present: Sydnee Goddard, Bob Gustafson, Andrew Roberts, Pam Holland, Courtney Prenata, Joan Skewes

Trails Committee: Joe Hickey

SELT: Jeremy Lougee

Selectboard: Vanessa Rozier

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

1. Moulton Ridge Conservation Land -The Commission reviewed the proposed Conservation Easement language with Jeremy Lougee of Southeast Land Trust (SELT) particularly the Use Limitations and Reserved Rights sections. Examples of a commercial activity allowed would be any event to occur on the property to raise funds such as an educational activity or a race event. Examples of a structure would be a structure used for maple sugaring or a portable sawmill. Commission also discussed whether or not to allow hunting. Jeremy explained that if hunting is not listed in the easement it allows the Commission to control hunting in the future. Jeremy indicated that the Selectboard will need to authorize the easement and baseline report or give the authority to the Conservation Commission. Jeremy indicated that the Due Diligence investigation has been completed, there are no title issues. The baseline document report is being drafted. It is anticipated that the closing would occur before the end of 2020.
2. Bridges –Syd reported that Mike Gross started working on the DES application for the bridge from Trundle Bed Road to the Hodges property. Using reclaimed boards was not feasible given the requirements of a board walk. The plan is that the trails committee will build the bridge that would meet the DES requirements. We will then have to obtain an estimate for the construction cost. The location of the bridge will have to be determined to insure it is located on town owned land.
3. Stone removal from Hodges – Syd noticed that leaves have been piled on town owned land, within the Hodges property. It was discussed that the Society for Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) should be contacted since they are charged with enforcing the easement.
4. Forestry Cutting on Hodges- payment has been sent to SPNHF. The Commission currently has \$13,000 in the interest bearing trust account. Funds to be used for conservation activities on the property. SPNHF also has an account since half of the income from the property is sent to SPNHF. SPNHF has indicated that funds have been used as part of stewardship on the property. Charlie Moreno is on track to revise the forest management plan.

5. No Hunting Signs - Joe Hickey indicated that No Hunting signs have been put up on half of the property. Peter Sawyer who owns land adjacent to Hodges has agreed to grant access if his property is posted as well.
6. Invasive Treatment - It has been confirmed that the Bittersweet was treated as well as Black Swallow Wort. Wild seeding will be used to seed open areas.
7. Community News- The article about forestry cutting will be in the February 2021 Community News. The article has been posted in Kensington Connects. An additional article could be about the Moulton Ridge property or seed giveaway.
8. Pond on Drinkwater Road – Sue Varn waiting for the final report on the pond. The Selectboard, Fire Chief True and Dave Buxton to meet and discuss the fire pond. Work needs to be completed if it will be continued to use as a fire pond. The beavers need to be controlled.
9. White Property - Town counsel has been contacted to draft the documents for the transfer of the White property to the town.
10. The budget was discussed. The membership dues to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions is so \$275.00, not \$296 as discussed during the October meeting so the budget will be reduced.
11. October minutes approved as drafted.
12. Meeting adjourned.