

August 16th 2018 Meeting minutes of Winchester Conservation Commission

Present: Gus Ruth, Bonnie Leveille, Tom Turant, Norm Sims, Jon Baldvins, John Hann, Paul Hubner, Ken Cole, Joe Faloretti.

Guest: Margaret Sharra.

Meeting was called to order at 7:01PM

Motion to have Tom and Joe as regular members for a quorum.

Margaret was present to discuss a grant to replace two failing culverts on Back Ashuelot Street. The two failing culverts are the “cranberry bog” and the “Jones culvert”. The proposed cranberry bog culvert is estimated to cost \$300,000 and the proposed “Jones culvert” is estimated to cost \$350,000; each to cost \$40,000 for engineering management plans. Failure of the cranberry bog culvert will affect over 70 homes and the Jones Road culvert will affect homes, the Ashuelot Covered Bridge and 2 class 6 roads.

There are two grants in question, one being due August 30th and one September 9th. The WCC has already provided a letter of support but Margaret is requesting an additional letter of support that the WCC will agree to monitor and manage the streams and wetlands above the culverts. (Refer to Appendix E in Jack Munn’s Management Plan on file) The proposed payment has been raised from \$15.00 to \$30.00/hr.

Margaret also requested a copy of the WCC “Top 10 Priority List”. John will look for it.

A discussion followed of serious concerns and difficulties of agreeing to monitor the Snow Brook area. Members expressed the difficulty of access in parts of the watershed. Norm also raised his opposition to the possibility of the cranberry bog being drained. After lengthy discussion Norm made the following motion. *The Winchester Conservation Commission will write a letter of support for the grant to fund the replacement of the culvert on Back Ashuelot Street, expressing the importance of the culvert and the protection of the stream and watershed above the culvert. The WCC agrees to support the grant by monitoring the stream as presented in the proposed Management Plan of Jack Munn to the extent that they are able.* Bonnie seconded. Motion passed.

Margaret stated that Trout Unlimited had originally been willing to be involved but is too busy. Margaret will take the motion and draw up a letter and provide a copy to the WCC for approval.

Pulpit Falls:

Eversource will cut 200’ of the 250’ allowed. WCC has arranged for Ted Wallock to get it out and take to Green Crow. John has the price breakdown. The cut will take place

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before the next meeting. The WCC appreciates Mike Stanik from Eversource and Ted Wallock for their efforts in this cut.

Other Properties:

A discussion was held on WCC members taking on responsibility of other properties. Gus and Paul will do Musterfield Park; John will do Pulpit Falls, the Pied Property and Pudding Hill. John says we need to have Dick Drew mark the property lines. John will get a price. A motion was passed to have Dick Drew mark the property lines. Motion passes.

A discussion was held about the Wulff property. The trails need to be opened up and it was noted that the property should recognize in some way that it was donated by the family of a world champion fly fisherman.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30PM.

Submitted by,

Bonnie Leveille, Secretary


