

November 21st 2019 Winchester Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Guests; Mark Tigan, Ben Kilanski.

Meeting was called to order at 7:01PM. Motion passed to have Tom Turant as regular member for the meeting.

October minutes were reviewed. Jon made a motion to accept the minutes as read. John seconded. Motion passed.

Report of Ashuelot River Committee:

(report on file)

Three sites at this point have been selected: Norm's property, Dan Cole Pavilion and a site at the ox bow accessed off the Old Westport Road or Howard Street. Paul will talk to the landowner who has an old rite of way on his property to see if this can be a good point of access as it will not require using the rails to trails and get users closer to the river.

Paul says there are grants for recreational improvements. He gained information from the Town planner in Swanzey and will have Margaret approach him for more information,

John suggests start with Norm's property and suggests the WCC draw up a formal landowner's agreement to use for this and any future applications. John and Norm agreed to work on a draft which they would present to Bart for approval and bring to the next meeting.

The committee says the Dan Cole Pavilion will need portage signs. They will discuss best placement and material.

Black Racer Study:

Mark Tigan was present to discuss a need for funds for the Black Racer study previously discussed. The study is required as the Stone Mountain project requires an alteration of terrain permit for the access road. Fish and Game stated that there was a picture of a black racer snake on file from 10 years ago. The state wetlands biologist has done the first phase of the study. More will be done in the Spring. Mark presented the need for \$5,000 to be repaid when land parcels are sold. The WCC was in favor of providing the funds and discussed the best manner to proceed. John made a motion stating that *the WCC will loan the WEDC \$5,000 for the black racer study with final details to be worked out with Karey Miner.* Mim seconded the motion. Motion passed. Norm and Gus recused themselves from the vote.

November 21st WCC meeting minutes cont.**381 Power Line:**

John reported that they had viewed the work on the power line and were satisfied with the area after the work was completed.

Invoices:

Kilanski Lawncare: \$50.00 for 11/03 John made a motion to pay. Mim seconded. Motion passed.

Monadnock Conservancy requested a donation. Mim made a motion to donate \$200.00. Ken seconded. Motion passed.

Membership:

Ben stated that Jim said there were no forms stating Ben had been reinstated. A motion was made and passed to reinstate Ben. The BOS will be notified that he was not previously reappointed and to approve his membership.

Trapping Request:

A permit request was presented to the WCC to trap on the Snow Brook property. The permit was incomplete and was denied. The WCC did not feel it was appropriate to trap on WCC properties as they are both for conservation and recreational purposes. John made a motion that the WCC will not permit any trapping on lands owned or managed by the WCC that is open for recreation without explicit permission of the WCC. Mim seconded. Motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:40PM.



Submitted by:

Bonnie Leveille, Secretary

