

Lempster Conservation Commission Meeting - August 24th

Members present: Phil Tirrell, John Nowak, Sue Lickty, Scott Goodspeed, Rachel Tirrell.

Guests present: Erick Walker, Amanda Solomon, Warren Hurd

July minutes read and approved

Old Business:

- Old Home Day is August 13-15, We sponsored a self guided hike of Duck Pond and Lady Slipper trails. 35 maps of each trail were set out on a table with a poster to showcase the work of the conservation commission and encourage volunteers.
- Trail handouts for Duck Pond and Lady Slipper Trail were left here at the office. Some will also be at the kiosk when we get a container to hold them.
- A sign for the trailhead at Lady Slipper Trail is needed. The Long Pond Protection Association was contacted and are looking into providing one. Rachel will contact the association to see if they have made progress on this.
- "Intent to cut" paperwork. None received
- A date and time to use our deed of the orchard property on Earl's Lane to walk the boundary and place the private property signs has been tabled until the weather improves. This could be done after a meeting or sometime when members are available. Still planned for future meeting
- John Nowak spoke to a representative at the office of Annie Custer about possible grants. The orchard is a big project that is going to need professional guidance and some heavy equipment to fix the problems. Sullivan County Extension has offered to show us how to prune the trees this spring. They may also be a resource to help find someone who could give us an estimate. John asked if the town orchard was or could be a historical site which could improve chances of getting funding. John shared grant related links with the members. Continuing to gather information on grants available.
- 2 signs have been requested. The PTSA and Lempster Fire Auxiliary has adopted Lovejoy Rd. Scott will get an estimate of cost for signs for Lovejoy Rd. sign on Wolf Hill and Lempster Street saying th LCC has adopted that portion of the road is no longer readable and needs to be replaced. The state might replace the one on the state road but the Lovejoy Rd sign would have to be purchased. Scott spoke to state about the sign on Wolf Hill to Lempster Street and they will be replacing those signs.
- Sue asked if the Long Pond Protection Association could provide information about the lake host program. Rachel contacted Long Pond Lake Host and paperwork was provided for last year, still collecting information this year. Sue will contact Sand Pond Lake Host for their information.
- The clean up around Lupin Pond/placing of boundary line signs around the orchard/ Earl's Lane property will be done after a future meeting.
- There was a discussion about improving signage on trails so someone could report their location to authorities in case of emergency. Some ideas were color coding/tree blazing and numbering. Sue will research putting QR codes on the online maps allowing people to download maps with that information. Then we will put GPS locations on signs along the trail.

- Scott brought up the idea that the town should not sell or limit using the minerals such as sand and gravel on town properties. He believes the Mill Road property may have sand and gravel that could be a valuable resource in the future for the town. Rachel will draft letter for the committee to look over.
- John reported on the “Carbon Credit Initiative” Scott is concerned if accepting that money will limit our ability to cut trees in an emergency situation. This particular credit given would be at the end of the year, money just wouldn’t be awarded if the trees had to be cut. Here is no penalty, only a monetary award if the trees were not cut that year.

New Business:

- Linda, Town Clerk, would like copies of our meeting notes. They are currently being provided to Edie, Deputy Town Clerk, for the website. Approved
- Grant related links provided by John. Reviewed by members
- Ashuelot River LAC’s River monitoring for cost of E.coli testing Approved to pay \$125.00 Sue will ask for them to provide us with a report of the water quality of the water tested in our town.
- Long Pond Lake Host info from 2020. Report was reviewed
- Old Home Day poster info reported to members
- Check <http://.blogs.Cornell.edu/cceforestconnect/subscribe> for available websites
- An erosion control plan for the Fulton excavation site at the gravel pit was provided by the state, FYI only no action needed
- Land use change tax information on what other towns receive was provided by Sue. If a decision to ask for an increase in the percentage the commission receives it must be written up and presented at town meeting. No action was taken.
- Long Pond dam will be inspected by the state dam bureau on Tuesday August 31 at 10 am. Discussion on town management plan for town owned land. Town has a forester who is hired to manage cutting and thinning of town forests. Phil will ask if he is available to come speak with the committee.
- Motion made to table request from library to help pay for speaker at old home day
- John will ask Edie about keeping files for the committee on the town website.
- Guests A Solomon, E Walker and W Hurd asked if the commission could support them in their desire to have the Mill Pond a protected site, allowing beavers to rebuild the dam. They believe the culvert on Hurd Road was clogged before the flooding at the end of July and may need to be monitored for obstructions more often. They would like to see a larger culvert on Hurd Rd. installed allowing for more water to flow through. Amanda Solomon spoke of having less soft material used to rebuild the road, and Scott explained that some work done in the area was with bank run gravel and used to get the road open up as soon as possible. The commission understands the need to protect the flora and fauna in the town, but there is not enough money in our budget to provide monetary help to protect the beavers in this area while also protecting the ecosystem downstream of this area . Phil will ask the state dam bureau to inspect the old mill/beaver dam on Hurd Road to give ideas

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

