

LEMPSTER Conservation Commission Meeting

March 8, 2023 @ Town Offices

Meeting called to order: 4:34 pm

Members present: Phil, Rachel, Ivan, Lynda, Robin, John, Mindy, guest: Jennifer Gildner-Blinn

Secretary's report: accepted with corrections

Treasurer's report: accepted as read

Old Business:

- **River Road:** Lynda spoke to Erin Darrow, who seemed excited to help with writing a grant for River Road. She has worked previously with Mike Hanson. Lynda will discuss a walking bridge with Erin, and will meet with her when the snow is gone.
- **Trails:** Phil will ask selectmen about cutting a trail on Rt 10 property and cutting a connection between the Long Pond beach and Lady Slipper trail sometime when the snow is gone.
- **Intent to cut:** none
- **The Orchard:** Will attempt to get more bids for pruning and removing dead trees, and look into grant
- **Sand at Long Pond and Dodge Pond:** Premature with no rush this time of year, but Phil will contact the selectmen
- **National Trails Day, June 3rd:** We plan to have it at the Long Pond beach picnic area. Go simple this first time, possibly offering water, cookies, walking apples, etc. Robin plans to do a scavenger hunt on the trail. Advertise at town office, Facebook, at the school, possibly on the Historical Society's bulletin board on Rt 10. We will look into other ideas to get the word out.
- **Educational program:** Ben Killam's "Bears" program didn't happen. Mr Killam did not get back to us for a date even with multiple attempts. We will look into other possible education opportunities. Robin suggested contacting an Astro-photographer, Nicky, who lives in Keyes Hollow.
- **Beavers:** More areas were added to the map where beaver have been seen
- **Society for the Protection of NH Forests:** We are now members and take classes. Phil and Rachel went to an apple pruning class in February. Nigel Manley, manager of the "Rocks Estate" and Senior Outreach Manager of the forest society, presented. Topics covered: only prune when it is between 30° to 45°, if it is going to be below zero 2 weeks before or after your planned date do not prune, August 1st -10th is okay for pruning water sprouts, do not remove more than 30% of a tree each year, use a donut style mulching is best, application ½ pound for each inch diameter, use 10-10-10 fertilizer around the drip line, if sealing a cut only use white latex paint, looking for and removing "fire blight". We also learned at that program that there is an EQUIP grant, through the Extension Service, that offers money for pruning per apple tree.
- **Drift track:** It is our understanding that engineers have reduced the size of the footprint of the track due to wetlands. There is an article on the town warrant about the drift track.
- **Wildlife observed in the town:** bobcats, beavers, ermine, coyotes, turkeys, foxes, otter, skunk, porcupines including one albino, eagle, blue birds, and an opossum
- **Election of officers:** votes were cast and determined, Phil Tirrell as chairman, Ivan Wallace as treasurer, Rachel Tirrell as secretary

New Business:

- Received request from Long Pond Lake Host program to assist with funding. It was voted to give \$2000.
- **Mission statement:** has been written, read, accepted and will be posted on town website and on Kiosks
- **Next meeting** is April 5th at 4:30

- **Meeting adjourned** 5:40pm