

Lempster Conservation Commission Meeting

April 5, 2023 @ town office

Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm

Members present: Phil, Rachel, Mindy, Ivan, Lynda, John, Scott; alternate: Robin Maguire;

Guests: Jennifer and Reed Gildner-Blinn

Secretary's report: accepted as read with adjustments

Treasurer's report: accepted as read

**Old Business:**

- **River Road:** snow is melting but area is still covered from recent 30+ inches of snow
- **Grants:** no new grants being pursued at this time. It appears that NCX, carbon credit company, is no longer taking requests and will contact if there are any opportunities for credits.
- **Trails:** still about 10" of snow at Long Pond so we have not scheduled work on trails at this time. Phil will contact the select board about gravel for the road at Dodge Pond. Scott Goodspeed said there are 5-6 dams from Lovejoy Road to Route 10 and also some on Melody Lane. He asked who is responsible for removal of beaver dams when they are on private land because the road crew has been clearing a box culvert on Melody Lane, a private road. After discussion since beavers are not a threatened species but are causing or threatening damage to town property most members felt that this is up to the selectmen to determine what needs to be done.
- **Intent to cut:** no new intents received
- **Orchard at Earl's Lane:** Phil has spoken with several people who are planning on coming to look at the orchard, Andy Clifford, Tom Conway, and Arthur Heino. Phil will let members know when those times are scheduled. He spoke with Matt Magnusson who we met in Concord at the NH Forest Society pruning class. He is also coming to look at the property on April 17th at 4pm. He would like to draw up a multi year plan to get the orchard back into shape. Perhaps the others would be interested in doing something similar.
- **Long Pond and Dodge Pond:** too much snow at this time to put sand near Long Pond Beach. Water is too high to put gravel on the road near Dodge Pond.
- **Educational programs:** Robin will ask her contact about Astro photography
- **National Trails Day is the first Saturday June 3rd:** We will try to tag and work on the trail before this date. If that isn't possible then we will invite people to be involved in helping that day as part of the celebration of National Trails Day.
- **Wildlife observed in town:** lots of turkeys and beavers have been seen. Vultures and black bear have also been seen this past month.
- **Drift track:** New engineers are working with the owners and the state They gave the Conservation Commission and the selectmen new maps showing where the proposed track will be located on higher ground. We are waiting for permitting to get more information.
- **Any other old business:** parking and no parking signs are here, waiting to be placed at trail parking lot on Long Pond Road

**New Business:**

- **NH Association of Conservation Commissions:** We voted to pay \$250. to belong to the association
- **Mapping:** We received a map of Lempster from 911 so we can track where there are beavers in town
- **Wharf at Long Pond:** The town got permission from DES to remove the old wharf which was rotted out and allowing material to silt into the lake. The voters approved a similar replacement wharf to be rebuilt at Long Pond. It will be made of milled hard wood logs which will be pinned to the ledge. Work will start on the project when the snow and ice have melted.
- **Water testing:**
  1. Phil drove the state water testing crew around Long Pond to get samples from several areas of the lake last summer. Copies of the test results will be placed on the town website and a hard copy into our files in the office. They also suggested that since the town owns the dam and water rights to the lake that the town might want to think about not lowering the lake each year because it is detrimental to plants and animals. When the wharf work is finished the boards will be put back in the dam. It was noticed that water was running back into the lake from the outlet river because the beaver are beginning to dam up that river, which could also flood Long Pond Road, the only road in and out of the lake. After discussion it was decided we will pass all this information along to the selectmen.
  2. Testing of Ashuelot tributaries were also tested and those results will also be posted.
  3. Findings from the Long Pond Protective Association Lake Host program will also be posted on the town website. Thank you to Edie for making all these town website postings possible!

**Date of next meeting:**

- **Additional meeting:** We will meet with Mr Magnusson on April 17th at 4pm at the orchard on Earl's Lane
- **Regular meeting:** May 3rd @ 4:30 pm work type meeting at Long Pond Beach to mark out the new trail, if it's raining we will meet at the town office @ 4:30 pm

**Meeting adjourned at:**