

LEMPSTER Conservation Commission Meeting
November 1, 2023 @ 4:00 pm @ town office

Meeting called to order at: 4:10

Members present: Phil Tirrell, Mindy Chadwick, Ivan Wallace, Lynda Perry, John Nowak, Rachel Tirrell, Robin Maguire filling in for absent Scott Goodspeed. Guest: Jennifer Gildner-Blinn

Secretary's report: accepted as read

Treasurer's report: accepted as read with debts paid and .08 interest, \$9,445.47 in account

- River Road: nothing new
- Grants: John reported that he asked Lionel Chute, the county grant writer, about getting a grant from the Sullivan County Conservation District. Chute said that it seemed if you can walk across the bridge there is no need for money or grant to build a pedestrian bridge. Discussion followed on whether to just have the town put up a sign that says "road is not a town maintained road use at own risk"
- Trails: Duck Pond, Lady Slipper, Beaver Meadow, Moose, and River Ledge have all been maintained this year, no new work on trails planned for this year.
- Intent to cut: none
- Orchard at Earl's Lane: The selectmen agreed to pay the \$1000 for mowing done by Mr. Simineau, which was \$600 over the price we had gotten for mowing. Phil had contacted Matt about work on the orchard. Matt said he will be doing the pruning in December.
- Signage needed: sign for Moose trail is needed where it meets Beaver Meadow at the T saying "Moose Trail to River Ledge Trail"
- Educational programs: We need to have the grant/award information given to the schools by early spring. It will be a competitive grant/award from LCC of \$100. for a high school graduate from Lempster, and \$50 for an 8th grade graduate of LCS. Competitors must submit a 200 word essay, describing what they have done or ideas they have to address environmental issues, turned into LCC by May 1st. Grant/awards will be awarded at appropriate graduations.
- National Trails Day, Saturday June 3rd: postpone discussion
- Any animals spotted in town or surrounding area: 5 bluebirds seen on November 1st, deer, turkeys, skunks, raccoon, bears, moose, possum, and pheasant
- Any other old business: LCC received a letter on the quality of water in the Ashuelot River, quality was good through Lempster but elevations of phosphorus were found in Marlow perhaps related to beaver activity.

New Business:

- LCC received 2 letters of thanks for supporting the Sand Pond Lake Host program with a donation
- Capital Improvement Program. (CIP): none
- Members voted to keep budget at current level of \$5100
- motion was made and vote passed to pay our yearly dues to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions
- Any other new business: Phil has worked with several different state water testing crews for the last 6 years. All have asked why the water level is dropped each year because it

is damaging to both the flora and fauna in and surrounding the lake. The state does not list Long Pond as a lake that must be drawn down. Also the water is down so low from the boat landing that fire protection is negatively impacted in the ability to fight forest and structure fires. Lynda will contact someone from DES and Phil will get in touch with the Dam bureau for information about lake drawdowns. After discussion a motion was made and passed to have a letter written to the selectmen asking them to not lower the lake each year.

- The town has been contacted about selling a back lot at Long Pond. The members discussed how this lot could allow for us to connect and lengthen our hiking trails back to Long Pond Road. As a high point of land around the lake it would make a nice trail head. The town at one point had considered keeping it as a possible spot for a water tower. John will speak to Lionel Chute and Jennifer said Reed can speak to the Upper Valley about keeping this as public access to public land. Members advised Phil to write a letter stating the commissions hope that they will not sell this lot.

Date of next meeting: December 6, town office at 4

Meeting adjourned at: 5:4m