

LEMPSTER Conservation Commission Meeting

January 3, 2024 @ 4:30 pm @ town office

Meeting called to order at: 4:33

Members present: Phil Tirrell, Mindy Chadwick, Rachel Tirrell, Lynda Perry, Robin Maguire and Guests: Jen Gildner-Blinn, Vicki Madziarek

Secretary's report: accepted as read

Treasurer's report: no bank statement in mailbox

- River Road: 1. The no parking sign was removed, then approved by selectmen and asked to be placed back on River Road. Several people using the trail thanked Lynda for having the sign placed. 2. Lynda and her husband are considering donating land on their side of River Road so it is open as parkland/conservation land for public use. Their biggest concern is that they want to make sure the donated land would never be sold. 3. Acworth is working on their end of the trail. They have also purchased a turbidity meter to measure the turbidity of Dodge Brook and Cold River. The Fuzzy Brothers filled in culverts when they did work on Tucker Road was rebuilt this last time, so possibly the runoff is coming from that area.
- Grants:
- Trails: One National Trails Day on June 1st, we could work on the area alongside Dodge Brook Trail. We will contact the DES first about what can be done before telling the selectmen about our plan.
- Intent to cut: Robert and Stephanie Ibitz map 247 lots 037/038 on Sand Pond Road
- Orchard at Earl's Lane: Matt did more pruning work at the orchard, and has been paid the second half of his payment. He will be back in the spring to do more pruning. We need to develop a written plan for the orchard. Discussed developing a Facebook page for the orchard.
- Signage needed: We voted to purchase a sign for Dodge Brook Trail. Lynda will order it.
- Educational programs: Robin has not been able to contact the Astro-photographer. Phil will try again to contact Ben Killam.
- Grant/award/scholarship: Rachel will try to have a rough draft for the next meeting
- National Trails Day, Saturday June 3rd: see "trails"
- Animals spotted in town or surrounding area: There seems to be less birds being seen at bird feeders, maybe because no snow allows them easy access to food, but deer, bear have been seen.
- Agenda building: take off National Trail Day until closer to date and in future add Long Pond dam
- Any other old business: We need to start getting estimates for mowing the orchard. Lynda will get prices from Grant Taylor, and Vicki will check on a company she knows has done good work in town. Mowing would start after the lupines have gone by.

New Business:

- Mindy spoke to Erin Darrow who said it would cost \$3500 to get land surveyed for grants to build a bridge for Dodge Brook Trail. There was a discussion about placing steel beams across the river to create a walking multi-purpose trail. It would be a temporary removable bridge that doesn't change or do any work on the road.
- Any other new business: A letter from the state was given to the town about perceived changes made at Long Pond wharf and beach area

Date of next meeting: February 7th at the town office @ 4:30

Meeting adjourned at: 5:44 pm

