

## **LYNDEBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

Sept 22, 2019

Members in Attendance: Sharon Akers, Gregg Kreider, Lucius Sorrentino, Theresa Berna, Kurt Berna

Absent: Kris Henry, Mike Decubellis, Margaret Hagen

### **Monitoring Bullard Road Easement**

Part of the role of the Conservation Commission is to monitor conservation Easements held by the Town of Lyndeborough. Commission members met on Sunday morning to walk the Bullard Road Easement to observe any infractions by abutting properties or changes to land use. Since the Easement is land locked by abutting properties, the commission contacted one of the land owners with property in Easement, and was granted access through their property.

The purpose of the Easement is to protect Purgatory Brook and the riparian corridor along for benefit of water quality, wildlife, and for outdoor recreation and/or education. It is a 150 foot wide Conservation Easement along the west side of Purgatory Brook.

Since this is the first time the commission has walked the property we tried to find markers defining the corners of the easement area. After descending from Bullard Drive along trails used by the landowners, we reached the brook and were able to follow a faint, unmarked trail south until we reached the stone wall at the corner of Lot 6. We followed the stone up 150 feet but did not see a corner marker there. Back along the brook, we walked north until the small trail faded out near where the stone wall along the brook (on Lots 5 and 6) begin, and then followed the wall. There was a bit of orange surveying tape nailed to a tree that might have been the corners of Lots 5 and 6, but we found no clear marker. Bushwhacking along the wall, then the stream, we could find no markings for the boundary. Eventually we found a tree that had two orange tapes around it that might be the corners of Lots 3 and 4, and soon picked up the stone wall on the north side of the easement. As indicated on the map, the wall turns west away from the brook, rising steeply, and we followed this for 150 feet, not finding any marker on the interior. At a break in the wall we turned south and walked back to Bullard Drive.

The area within 150 of the brook/property line is undisturbed, except for a few pieces of lawn furniture (chairs, benches) placed in a clearing overlooking the brook. It may have been logged before the easement was granted or the property subdivided, but the forest is re-growing. The commission noted several "no trespassing" signs attached to trees in the Easement area and will notify the landowners that public access is granted via the Easement, and should not be posted.

Sharon motioned that we construct a letter to the current land owners, with property that is part of the Easement, to inform them of the Easement and note that the Commission may contact them in the future for access to the property. Theresa seconded, All in Favor.

Theresa motioned that the commission contact the abutting land owners that are up and downstream from the Easement for permission to construct a trail through their property to gain access to the Easement. Kurt Seconded, All in Favor.

Sharon and Theresa will draft a letter for the landowners for review by the commission at a future meeting.

Adjourned 12:05 PM