

Lyndeborough Conservation Commission Meeting

11 Jul 19.

Meeting started at 6:30, ended at 8:07.

Present: Sharon Akers, Margaret Hagen, Greg Kreider

- No minutes from last meeting available for review.
- Bank balance is \$10446.47. Payment for the cabin removal is done and has cleared the account.
- Mail includes a newsletter from the Frankestown Land Trust and a thank-you from Fish and Game for our contribution.
- The work at the town forest is complete. Matt Fisk ended up pulling out 45 loads of trash (6 truck loads) and closing off the top and bottom of the trails he used with rocks. 6-7 tires of various sizes have been dumped at the bottom of the Scout Road that need to be removed, and we should make a clean-up pass at some point (to smooth out some of the small ruts that are left, for example). We should also improve signage now: replace the "Danger - Keep Out" signs with warnings (still broken glass and nails scattered about), add "No Wheeled Vehicles", and a copy of the signs we made for the Upper and Lower Falls.
- The town is thinking of doing work at the Upper Falls to create/improve parking and have been talking with the Salisburys for permission. There's no update on the bridge replacement.
- Margaret talked with County Forester E. Belair about the wetlands question from last week's Board of Selectmen meeting. It's not clear there is a violation: you are allowed to cut up to a (minor, not Class 4) stream as long as 50% of the basal area is left and the stream banks aren't disturbed. Stumping, for example, can allow dirt into the stream, and this would fall under the Wetlands Bureau of the Dept. of Environmental Services; logging issues come under the Division of Forests and Lands. Any complaint would need to come from an abutter as we don't have access to the site. We would encourage getting in touch with the landowner first.

In general we need to keep gathering more information, there are too many questions open: What are the buffers the town's defined? at the state level (we've heard of changes this session to prime wetlands and buffers but don't know details)? Which wetlands do we need to classify (the Granit website has wetlands layers on it, much of the town may already be done)? What have other towns done with ordinances to protect their wetlands (many good examples in the Seacoast region)?

We'll come back to this again next meeting.

- Highlights from the Regional Open Space Team (ROST) meeting in June: Rindge's commission has a new logo and has put out a pamphlet with 4 hikes in town, including a trail map, description, and link to an on-line map for GPS tracking. Mason's commission has created a 3x3 foot poster about the History of Conservation in their town, with all conserved properties marked and labeled with their name, date of protection, and a short description. Alstead and Walpole held a Forest Block Party, inviting landowners to a dinner where they could meet one another and hear a presentation from the Cheshire County Forester about projects (habitat protection, wildlife management, invasive species) they could take together. They had more than 50 people turn out.
- We need to start considering warrant articles for next year, possibly for wetlands or the allocation of the land use change tax. We'll come back to this next meeting.