

MINUTES

Epsom, NH Conservation Committee

May 17, 2018

Attendees	Guests
Alison Parodi, Chair Elsie Fife, Member Denyce Gagne, Member Kate Champney, Member	

Old Business:

- Land acquisition—The Selectboard is supportive of the ECC moving to acquire the Barton property to add onto the Town Forest. They approved an initial offer amount but, if the ECC works with Bear Paw to secure an LCHIP grant, Dan feels less Town money will be needed and the process will take about one year. Bear Paw and Alison will take the lead on the project.
- The Selectboard tabled the remaining requests to invest in a number of Conservation easements in Town stating that they want to discuss the issue amongst themselves. They are aware, however, that they made a prior commitment to Hickey. Dan may be able to include Harkness in the LCHIP grant.
- Earth Day—The annual Earth Day roadside trash collection event has come to an end. Alison received a phone call from a resident unhappy with the ECC efforts to promote the event; the resident felt that the event should have been promoted on Facebook. The ECC does not have a Facebook presence. Kate volunteered to be the ECC Facebook liaison to the Town Facebook page so that the ECC can better inform some users.
- Signs—Tiny Houses, who previously agreed to remove “no trespassing” signs on their property, finally did so. They advertise the Town Forest as a recreational opportunity for their guests and the trails on their own property connect both to the local snowmobile trail and the Town Forest.
- Trails—there has been no progress made with making the rail trail, that runs from Short Falls Rd to the Little Suncook River, an official recreation trail. The Central Regional Planning Commission is working on next steps. Alison reminded the ECC that some of the trail planning included the potential of mapping trails in Town. Don Harty has expressed interest in trails and the ECC is hoping he may be able to join us.

- Alison provided a list of new signs to request of Don Gagne and suggested he charge for his services this time.
- The ECC tried to host a Suncook River bank restoration tour in May but the short notice resulted in almost no response. Potential new dates were discussed and the ECC thought waiting till fall might be the best bet as many folks are busy during the summer months. The field tour is limited in participant size due to the logistics of parking, etc. but the ECC would like to open up the indoor presentation to the public. Denyce will follow up with Steve Landry at NHDES.

New Business:

- The ECC would like to host another guided trail hike at the Town Forest. It was suggested that an autumn foliage hike might be nice.
- Alison and Denyce will add trail markers to the Stewart trail at some point this year.
- NHDOT contacted the ECC via email regarding a planned Rte 28 improvement project. They were seeking comment on any environmental concerns related to the project as well as potential mitigation sites IF the project results in wetland impacts. Denyce will follow up, naming the Bloomfield and Harkness easement projects if funding becomes available.

**Next meeting: June 21, 2018
(No July Meeting)**