



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes – D R A F T

Nov. 14, 2012
7:00 pm to 10:30 pm

In Attendance

- Barbara Devore
- Bob Dillberger
- Anna Faiello
- Liz Fletcher
- Rob Doyle
- Bob Larochele
- Ann Moser

Voted unanimously to accept October minutes.

Met with Jeff Belanger from NRPC to discuss the regional plan they're working on. Jeff's making the rounds to gather town-specific input for this regional plan and wanted to talk with us regarding our desires and plans for natural resource management. The NRPC effort is part of a statewide effort labeled "Granite State Future". No particular action taken, but had an interesting first discussion of Mason's priorities with respect to natural resource management.

Discussed easement monitoring activities. Agreed to visit the Fifield easement because of recent logging activity. Meet at end of Mitchell Hill Rd. Dec. 1 at 10 A.M. Note to Bob D: file the paperwork for the Stewart easement. Also agreed to meet Dec. 8 (meet at Mann House) at 10 A.M. to look at E-1 & E-2 (D'Arbeloff) and Spaulding Brook/Doonan (two teams, who does what to be decided at the time).

Barbara noted that Janet Zeller from the U.S. Forest Service will give a presentation about ADA OPDMD regs. (originally scheduled for the NHACC meeting) at the ROST meeting on Dec. 7 in Milford.

Regarding the quarry land deal, still awaiting feedback from town counsel about the deed. Regardless, the Selectmen have authorized the CC to accept the land. And so Bob Dillberger moved that we accept the gift of the Mason Quarry Land (E-26, E-27) from Mason Quarry LLC, seconded by Bob Larochele. Passed unanimously (with enthusiastic applause).

Catherine Schwenk articulated one particular concern they'd like to see addressed in the easement: explicit provisions for protecting Lady Slippers and *Polygala paucifolia*. Needs to be included in the easement and the provisions that call for a subsequent management plan. (Ian McSweeney agreed to draft wording for this.) Catherine recommended the NH Wildflower Society and the N.E. Botanical Society (at Harvard's Arnold Arboretum) as valuable resources to help with this aspect of land management.

Regarding appraisals (Quarry land and PSNH easement), can contract for that work now as long as the value reflects the time at which the deed is finalized. Deadline for quarry appraisal is April 15, 2013 (tax day). Ian M. advised that the two projects are quite different and probably are best treated separately. Ian also noted that costs will be higher because appraisal must be to I.R.S. standard for tax purposes. Agreed to contact the three appraisers Ian suggested, asking if a discount price might apply for doing two appraisals (assuming they're qualified to do both).

Reviewed bids for Jackson Rd. RR bridge repair from Fafard Bros., Cornerstone Excavation, and C.L. Guild. Highest bid is over \$1,000 more than the next, and is no longer being considered. One outstanding question for remaining bidders: will they be able to meet our deadlines (imposed by our funding source)? Construction is gated by girder painting, and painting is weather-dependent. Also ask for references from similar jobs, and about insurance coverage during construction.

Voted to pay **G.W. Shaw & Son, Inc. \$65.00 from the general fund** for dumpsters used for Earth Day roadside cleanup.