



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes – D R A F T

May 8, 2013
7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

In Attendance

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

Voted unanimously to accept April minutes.

Met with Al Williams and Amos White (cell 321-1489 or email amostwhite@gmail.com) to discuss RR trail maintenance, knotweed and erosion control. In particular, the portion between Morse Rd. and Jackson Rd. needs some preventative ditching. Amos will charge \$100/hr. for a dump truck and excavator for this purpose. Agreed to visit the area in July (or later) to identify areas most in need. Amos also suggested that some areas could use gravel, materials to be supplied by us.

Met with George & Cathy Schwenk to review report of LGC risk manager visit, and other updates on the Mason Quarry project. See page 2 for e-mail from Charlie Moser for details. Cathy asked that we make sure any artifacts retrieved by the planned quarry dive be donated to the Mason Historical Society. All agreed.

Wildflower survey at quarry starts next Wed. (5/15) at 9:00 AM. Cathy noted she'd like to meet the group first thing and proposed meeting at Parker's. Liz will ask the team for their logistical preferences. Cathy asked if we'll get a preliminary report of their findings so we don't need to wait until November. Liz will inquire.

Received a check for \$400 from LCHIP for monitoring the Fifield easement. This award is a direct result of our dedicated efforts at being good stewards. Amount to be deposited in the Fund (see letter on page 3).

Bob D. hesitantly moved that we pay Drescher and Dokmo \$2,205.00 for legal services related to the Mason Quarry project to come from the Land Protection Fund. Liz reluctantly seconded. Passed by unanimous sigh.

Discussed possible policies to propose for Mason Quarry (assuming easement and land transfer happens):

1. Open dawn to dusk.
2. Open to Mason residents only.
3. No jumping or diving in quarry.
4. No fires.
5. All pets on leash at all times.
6. No camping without permission from Mason Conservation Commission.

List of regulations to be posted at all entrances, except for jumping/diving sign to be posted around quarry.

Re. Jackson Rd. RR bridge repair: Liz reports that bridge painting contractor can't begin until 5/21 at the earliest, so it's prudent to ask for a grant extension. Liz moved that we ask for a one-month extension. Passed unanimously. Liz will follow up. Bob D. suggests that the unusable ties removed from the bridge be stacked in place along the trail as "historic artifacts."

Discussed the ongoing issue of knotweed at Black Brook bridge. The plastic has come loose again. Eric Anderson suggested using old tires to keep the plastic in place. Ann suggested hay bales. Bob L. will ask Dave Baker if he has any rotten bales we can use. Set a date for 5/18 at 9 AM to deal with the issue (again).

Bob L. will call Jenny at PSNH about the RR trail right-of-way easement. We sent them our proposal a while ago via e-mail and have received no response. Bob L. will check to see if they received it.

Barbara reported we received over 13 lbs. of drugs at the latest drug take-back day. Barbara says Barry is willing to give a drug education seminar for local folk. Will pursue this later this year in the fall.

Voted unanimously to reimburse Bob Larochelle \$7.94 for flagging used to mark Quarry boundaries.

Many thanks to Barbara Milkovits for the new wireless password. We really needed it tonight!

From: Charles Moser [cvmoser@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 1:01 PM
To: Mason Selectmen Office; Larochelle, Bob
Cc: Pete McGinnity; Bernie O'Grady; Ron O'Keefe; Liz Fletcher
Subject: Quarry Walk

To the Selectmen and Conservation Commission:

This is quick report for the files.

Ron O'Keefe, risk management consultant from LGC, walked the quarry this morning, 4/22/2013. Present were myself, Bernie O'Grady, Liz Fletcher, and Bob Larochelle. Also joining us was Chuck Anderson, abutter, who has expressed concerns about safety at the quarry.

We parked at the end of the improved section of Scripps Lane, off Brookline Road, and walked up the rail trail to where the narrow gauge rail cut goes in to the quarry. We walked to the low area of the quarry where people generally congregate, and also walked up to the high points where people are known to jump into the water from.

A log, branches and other natural debris were observed in the water, as well as a small amount of trash (mostly beverage cans).

I showed Mr. O'Keefe an opening in the ground that appears to be some kind of man made, rock lined underground chamber or channel, in which there is a considerable amount of trash. He advised filling the chamber with rock and covering it over.

We advised Mr. O'Keefe that youth were known to swim in the quarry, jump off the sides, including the highest point above the water, and that kids were known to come here from Nashua and other surrounding communities. We also said that in the collective memory of those present on the walk, there has never been an emergency call for an injury at the quarry.

Mr. O'Keefe had a couple of common sense recommendations during the walk:

The floating logs and brush in the quarry should be removed and the water kept generally free of such debris. His logic is that, even swimming was banned, it is highly unlikely that we will prevent kids from accessing the site and jumping into the water. Therefore, an obvious, simple hazard like a floating log should be removed. He also suggested that we have someone with scuba gear survey for underwater hazards. Bernie will contact Steve Dunn about this. He is a certified diver who dove the quarry a few years ago.

We observed many years worth of vandalized No Trespassing signs at the quarry proper. Mr. O'Keefe suggested that we should consider making rules and posting them at the main access points, where there might be more visibility and less opportunity for vandalism. However he did suggest a few signs around the quarry e.g. "No Jumping/Diving" may also be advisable.

Mr. O'Keefe also suggested that if a picnic area is established, we look for dead trees or branches overhanging the area and clean those up so they don't fall on anyone.

Mr. O'Keefe is going to review the recommendations that LGC has made to other towns with quarries, and then forward his written recommendations to us.

It appears that implementation of the type of recommendations Mr. O'Keefe is considering will all be allowable under the terms of the easement.

Charles V. Moser
Selectman
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LCHIP

Investing in New Hampshire's Heritage



LAND & COMMUNITY HERITAGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Land and Community Heritage Investment Program
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April 24, 2013

Liz Fletcher
Town of Mason Conservation Commission
16 Dariing Hill Road
Mason, NH 03048

Dear Liz,

We are pleased to send you the enclosed incentive payment to recognize that you have submitted an acceptable 2012 monitoring report for your LCHIP-protected property.

The Monitoring Endowment fund was created to encourage grant recipients to continue good stewardship of the resources protected with Land and Community Heritage Investment Program assistance. Payments are based on income available from the endowment, the number of projects receiving funds and a variety of resource-based factors.

Because the return on the investment that supports these payments is good this year, we are able to provide more substantial payments than in some past years. However, since the amount distributed varies from year to year, we advise that you not include a specific payment from this source as part of your organization's annual budget.

This check represents stewardship monitoring for the Fifield Tree Farm,

Remember that you will need to submit a completed 2013 monitoring report to fulfill your agreement with LCHIP and to receive an incentive payment next year. Many recipients find that summer is a good time to complete the required monitoring. The current monitoring report form is available on the LCHIP website.

If you have any questions please feel free to call us at 224-4113.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Dijit Taylor".

Dorothy T. Taylor
Executive Director