

**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**June 22, 2016**  
**MINUTES**

**Members present:** Kevin Fife, Sterling Blackey and Dave Krause. Also present: Christina Beadle and Ken Norton.

**Minutes:** Sterling Blackey moved, seconded by Dave Krause to accept the minutes of May 18, 2016 as read. Motion passed.

**Knowles Pond Stocking:** Christina Beadle reported on her research of potential impact of stocking Knowles Pond on the water quality and the existing conditions for fish and loons. She contacted NH Fish & Game, Squam Lakes Science Center and the Loon Preservation Society for information. The loon nesting area should be roped off during nesting. This has been done in the past but not this year. Any stocking will impact the existing fish and could introduce new pathogens. The expected increased number of fishermen would have the largest impact on water quality, litter and possible lead sinkers. Stocking will increase the number of boats on the pond which could impact the loons, however the loons will feed on the introduced fish.

Kevin Fife commented that the stocked fish would be good for fishing, but the health of the pond could be decreased by increased use. Christina asked how the town would gain by allowing stocking of the pond. Dave Krause explained that F&G had approached the town relative to stocking which is why there has been discussion relative to allowing it. The general consensus was to not allow stocking as there are already many fishermen and there is danger of over use of the pond. After further discussion, Sterling Blackey moved, seconded by Dave Krause to defer any decision to allow stocking of Knowles Pond at this time. Motion passed.

**River Access – Cross Mill Road:** Ken Norton reported that the property owners of the current kayak access and parking area are interested in donating an appropriate area in memory of Roger Blais. Ken, Dave Krause and a member of the American White Water Assoc. met with the owner and visited the site to determine that an additional 100 feet beyond the town's right of way is needed to allow for parking and the river access point. Ken asked if the Conservation Commission would accept either ownership or hold an easement and what process would be required to make it happen. Dave Krause suggested that if a parcel were to be adjoined to the existing town right of way the area could conceivably be used for a roadway or bridge in the future, therefore it would be better to create a separate parcel. An easement would eliminate the need for subdivision and minimum lot requirements, however the landowner would prefer to donate a parcel of land rather than an easement. Ken agreed to meet with the Planning Board relative to a donation and the need for waivers from subdivision regulations. He added that there would be need for donations of labor/ dollars/ materials to improve the parking area for both the WRTA trail and river access after transfer of ownership to the town.

**Trails:** Dave Krause moved, seconded by Sterling Blackey to pay \$64.00 to Cutting Edge for signs at Knowles Pond. Motion passed. Signage relative to "No Camping" and "No Fires" at the parking area was discussed. As there are concerns about camp fires and overnight parking in the parking area there is need for some enforcement of the regulations.

The rope swings have reappeared at Knowles Pond with the accompanying steps bolted to trees. Members will plan a work date to remove the swings.

**Other:** Sterling Blackey reported that the Spaulding trail system will be closed during logging operations.

**Correspondence:**

- LRPC annual meeting
- DES – Prescott – Forestry Notification
- DES – Dredge & Fill – Interstate 93 bridge work
- Town & City Magazine
- NHACC – Invasive Species Management

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary

*Minutes approved 07-20-2016*