

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
January 18, 2017

MINUTES

Members Present: Kevin Fife, Charlie Page, Sterling Blackey, Christina Beadle

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 21, 2016. Motion passed.

Knowles Pond – Loon Preservation

Christina inquired via email with the Loon Preservation Committee in regards to roping off the nesting area for the nesting site. Christina was told by the Loon Preservation Committee that their main contact is a resident in Northfield named Mark; this individual checks the pond regularly. John Cooley with the LPC stated that, if Mark is available, that Mark, as well as the Conservation Commission together with the LPC field biologist could float and then remove the signs. The signs are placed once there is an active nest confirmed. John stated that in order for this to happen the loons must nest; in 2016 the banded male loon only visited the pond occasionally and there was no record of nesting. If there is turnover in the loon's pairing then it could take 1-2 years for them to return to a regular nesting pattern. Christina is going to contact Mark regarding his involvement with this project.

Trail Update

Christina questioned if snowmobiles are allowed to cross Knowles Pond; Kevin Fife stated that, according to the town ordinance, snowmobiles are permitted to cross the pond.

There is going to be a meeting held at the Highlands Bike Park on 1/19/2017 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss marking the trail system for fat bikers, 4-wheelers and snowmobiles; there is also talk about the possibility of holding a snowmobile event. The State Bureau of Trail Systems will be available at the meeting to answer any liability questions.

Cross Mill - DES

Kevin stated that DES has said it is fine to cut the brush, therefore, brush cutting will start when the snow melts approximately mid-March. Before any excavation can start a Shore Land Permit by Notification must be obtained; Kevin will speak with Glenn about this.

Other

Knowles Pond: The Tom Wooten memorial bench will be placed at Knowles Pond this spring. There are some trees that need to be removed from around the dock area. Kevin will talk to Glenn about who will conduct the tree removal and will report at the next meeting. Charlie made the Commission aware that the dock sways due to the post being sunk into the base and mounted into the rocks; in order to fix this properly sway bars will need to be installed to the base of the dock. The sway bars are \$75 each; Charlie is going to inquire with the store that sells these if they would be willing to donate them.

Corliss Property: The donation is still on the table; a survey, appraisal and monitoring of the property going forward still needs to be taken care of before the land can be donated. Kevin is going to contact Beth with Five Rivers to inquire about this further.

Proposed Zone #5: Lindsey gave an update regarding the proposed Zone #5 – Institutional Zoning. Spaulding Youth Center made 2 presentations at the last Planning Board meeting. The first presentation identified how this project would increase the Town's tax revenue; the second presentation regarded the impact this project would have on the traffic pattern. There are currently 2 road studies being conducted. The road study results will be available starting late spring. The more in depth results will be available late fall. Kevin requested that the Spaulding Youth Center present their proposal to the Conservation Commission; Lindsey will talk to Glenn about this.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Giunta, Secretary

Minutes approved 2-15-2017