

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
June 20, 2018
MINUTES

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

Public Present: Heather Durgin, Mark Chaffee, Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm

Meeting Minutes – Members reviewed the minutes of the meeting of May 23, 2018. **Blackey/Beadle** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 23, 2018. **Motion passed.**

Conservation Corner – Members reviewed the draft articles prepared by Christina Beadle, deciding to run ‘Give ‘Em A Break’ on July 6th and 13th and ‘Nature’s Fireworks’ on July 20th and 27th. Members brainstormed ideas for August articles, such as topics on Dragonflies and Devil’s Den Walking Trail.

Trail Update – The dedication for the Brass Plaque at Blais Park will be on June 23rd at 1 pm. Ken Norton will be the speaker at the dedication on Saturday.

Glenn Smith - The highway department has installed large stones along the side of Knowles Pond Road on the pond side and will be installing large stones on the other side of the road to deter parking on both sides of the road. Parking is available up by the boat ramp and also on Rand Road.

The discussion of the installation of guardrails was brought up as it would be easier to plow with the guardrails that with the stones.

Charlie Page – If the guardrails are installed it will make it more difficult for individuals with disabilities to access Knowles Pond. I would rather have the stones for ease of accessibility as well as it being aesthetically pleasing.

Water Testing – Members discussed testing the water quality at Knowles Pond. The NHDES VLAP program is already testing the water for phosphorus. Christina said they can also test for E-coli. They will be performing the testing monthly. The E-coli testing is \$30.00 per sample. The program will bill the Town of Northfield and the Town will bill the Conservation Commission.

Krause/Blackey – Moved to approve the spending of funds for pond testing. All in favor. **Motion Passed.**

Sandogardy Pond

Beadle – Picked up water testing bottles at NHDES for testing at Sandogardy Pond. The test results should be published in the Northfield News.

Knowles Pond

Mark Chaffee – Discussion on Loons at Knowles Pond. The area where the Loons are is roped off and should not be approached. There is a pair of Loons nesting, they have their territory and will defend it. The loons migrate to the ocean during the winter and will return in the spring year after year to their nesting ground.

The life span of a loon is currently unknown but they do have one recorded loon that lived to be about 29 years old.

Charlie Page – When you have a nesting pair and they have chicks, when they mature, do they stay at the pond?

Mark Chaffe – The chicks will stay at the pond for the summer. In the fall they will fly to the ocean where they will stay for about three years. When they become breeding age, they will come back to the area where they hatched, but the parents are there and if they do try to attempt to take up residence at the pond, the parents will chase them off. They will find a new nesting area and will return to that area year after year.

Charlie Page – The volume of people coming to Knowles Pond is increasing, most are new users, visitors from out of state. What about adding parking?

Kevin Fife – Parking is available at the boat ramp and on Rand Road. Adding additional parking increases the concern of runoff into the pond and destroying the natural look of the pond.

Glenn Smith – Does the Conservation Commission want to hire someone to clean up Knowles Pond and the trails around it?

The board address the question brought forward by Glenn Smith, the board stated that there was no need to hire someone to clean up Knowles Pond and the trails around it as members of the board walked the trails frequently and picked up trash along the way.

Glenn Smith – Blais Park - A sign should be placed on shore or on Cross Mill Bridge warning of Rough Water Ahead.

Little Socks

Christina Beadle – At the Open Space Committee meeting held on Monday, June 18th, it was discussed about placing a picnic table and grill at Little Socks. We wanted to bring this before the Conservation Commission and see what the opinion of the Conservation Commission would be.

Sterling Blackey stated that it would lead to a lot of trash being left behind.

No other business.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:23pm.

Minutes Approved with Changes on July 18, 2018