

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
November 19, 2015
MINUTES

Members present: Sterling Blackey, Dave Krause, Kevin Fife, Charlie Page and Pattie Howe.
Also present: Madeline Dunlop and Karen Carey.

Donation: Madeline Dunlop asked for clarification on the need to have all the current property owners sign a deed. It was emphasized that each owner would have to sign and that legal proceedings won't begin until the Commission is assured that all the owners are agreeable. Mrs. Dunlop will continue to make contact with relatives to discuss this issue.

Minutes: Dave Krause moved, seconded by Sterling Blackey to accept the minutes of October 21, 2015 as read. Motion passed.

Town Report: The Conservation lands are going to be highlighted in the 2015 Town Report. Photos and narratives about each property will be presented at the December meeting for members to review and edit.

Town property: There has been no progress relative to finding access to the town property off Oak Hill Road. Members would like to inquire how the Selectmen intend to proceed with sale of the property and whether it would be offered to abutters first.

Master Plan re open lands: The Northfield Master Plan clearly states that preservation of open space and farm land are a priority in maintaining the rural character of the town. Discussion followed relative to the need for introducing the idea that funding by the town is most likely needed to secure the required 50% matching funds for purchasing an easement on the Corliss Farm. Federal grants for easements require that there be matching funds and demonstrated support for an easement. Further investigation is needed to determine which steps to take in what order to be able to move forward with securing an easement on the Corliss Farm.

Trail Maintenance: All trails have been re-blazed. The snowmobile bridge on the Sotir property has been repaired and relocated after being washed about 100 feet down the brook by the breaking of the beaver dam. The beavers appear to have vacated the premises as there is no evidence of rebuilding the dam. Charlie Page suggested signage to direct walkers to the parking lot and dock on the Knowles trails. Dave Krause advised that the boundary lines should be repainted on the Sotir property. Approximately 8 signs have disappeared from Knowles trails. Dave Krause moved, seconded by Kevin Fife to approve purchase of up to 10 new signs. Motion passed.

Correspondence:

- Environmental News
- LRPC Annual Report

Other:

- Dave Krause reported that there is a pile of trash that may include shingles that appears to be growing behind 12 Elm Street near the river.
- The Planning Board is considering changing the wetland setback requirements for septic systems to be the same as NHDES requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary

Minutes approved 12-16-2015