CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: August 9, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brett St. Clair, Drew Groves, Darlene Jarvis, Ron Jarvis, Stan Sowle
Alternates Present: Matt Lavey, Margaret Watkins
MEMBERS ABSENT: George Holt
Alternates Absent: None

MINUTES: May’s minutes were accepted.
(Note: June’s meeting was changed to an evening of trail work in the Bela Brook Conservation Area. July’s meeting was cancelled.)

OLD BUSINESS:

Trail work/Bela Brook Conservation Area (BBCA)

Drew Groves, Matt Lavey, Darlene Jarvis and Ron Jarvis met at the BBCA on June 14, 2017. Most of the trail system was walked. Matt, Darlene and Ron trimmed the trails on the west side while Drew cleared a large tree from the trail to the east.

Master plan revision of the Natural Resources chapter

Members were asked for their final comments on the revision edited by Margaret Watkins. Members expressed their appreciation for the work she has done on the chapter.

Botnick application update

Mr. Botnick has decided to build only an indoor riding arena instead of the larger structure he originally proposed which included stalls for about 18 horses at one end. Commission members discussed the structure’s one bedroom apartment. Members agreed that a formal document should be required for application approval. The document should clearly state that the apartment may only be rented to a person retained to manage the equine/agricultural facility.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kimball Pond Conservation Area update

Legache Hill Road

Matt Lavey and Drew Groves reported no evidence of vehicle use and virtually no trash. Brett St. Clair observed one new fire ring.

Kimball Pond dam
Brett reported pulling brush from the raceway while both he and Stan Sowle have removed logs from the spillway of late.

*Kimball Pond snowmobile trail*

The Bow Pioneers Snowmobile Club has done some work to make clear which trails are part of the new system approved by the Conservation Commission. Drew agreed to ask the Club for a GPS file to indicate to the Department of Resources and Development (DRED) where the new trail section is located.

*Kimball Pond ash borer research project*

Brett St. Clair contacted the UNH professor regarding the project after he discovered that there were no cages on the ash trees being used in the study. Brett was told that the larvae are not a concern until they overwinter in the trees and that all trees would be removed this fall. Brett has since received updates on the project as promised.

NEW BUSINESS:

*Bela Brook Conservation Areas recent additions (I4-01-02 0A and I4-01-02 OB)*

Brett suggested that members walk the bounds. Margaret proposed that a walk be scheduled this fall when the leaves are off the trees.

*Establishment of future “old growth” areas*

Brett St. Clair explained that Dave Nault asked the Kuncanowet Committee if they would consider setting aside a suitable area in the Kuncanowet to promote future “old growth” trees. Conservation Commission members present were open to the idea of designating similar areas on other conservation parcels. The following are some of the areas mentioned as possible future “old growth” locations:

Near Bela Brook in the BBCA
West of Legache Hill Road in the area of black gum trees
Kuncanowet Natural Area
Former vicinity of Stark cemetery near Stark Pond

NEXT MEETING: September 13, 2017, 7:30 PM

AGENDA:

Stone Farm celebration (Margaret)
Update on Kimball Pond dam (wetlands permit/remediation work)
Update on Bow Pioneers snowmobile trail/GPS status (Drew)
Bela Brook boundary marking
October hike
Other business

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Darlene M. Jarvis