DATE: December 12, 2018

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

MINUTES: November’s minutes were accepted

OLD BUSINESS:

Hike into Bela Brook Conservation Area (BBCA)

On December 1, 2018, Wendy Weisiger, managing forester for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, lead Brett St. Clair and eight other people into the BBCA. Wendy taught the group how to better identify trees in winter. (See “UPCOMING EVENTS” below for information on January’s hike)

Easements monitored

Drew Groves reported that he walked both the Taylor and the Story easements on December 1st. No violations were observed during either of the walks. Drew spoke briefly with Mr. Botnick (Taylor easement) and electronically filed a monitoring report with the Forest Society. Drew bushwhacked along the Story easement’s blazed boundary. His monitoring report for the Story easement will be placed in the Commission’s files.

Update on old “field” area south of the Nassikas homestead

Stan Sowle and UNH forester, Tim Fleury, walked the area which was clear cut a few years ago. Tim pointed out a number of invasive species now thriving there and was especially concerned with the bittersweet. Tim suggested a few methods which might help control the invasives. Discussed were the spraying of an herbicide and/or bringing in a brontosaurus.

Stan will meet with a Bay State Forestry Services representative on Monday, December 17th at 8 AM to again walk the area. Stan invited any available Commission members to join him. Stan also stated that he personally had had little luck in controlling bittersweet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monitoring schedule for 2019

Members discussed the following conservation properties and easements which should be walked in the coming year.
Margaret Watkins volunteered to contact the owners of the property on which Jane Grant placed an easement. She will set up a date to monitor the easement and walk it with members who are interested.

The Mary A. Kaminski Recreation Area has not been monitored in recent years. Margaret, Darlene and Ron agreed to visit it and do the North Woods easement which abuts it.

Drew will attempt to locate, etc. the right of way on the north end of the Great Meadows (E5-01-05) that runs along the east side of the Blanchette property.

Drew will also check the Chan lot and determine if it needs blazing or tags.

The Story and the Taylor easements will not need to be done until next fall.

George Holt volunteered to find out whether all the bounds have been set on the two Overlook lots which are now part of the Bela Brook Conservation Area.

In regards to the Poirier lot (Grapevine Road), George believes the lot is impacted by the Wetlands Conservation District but it is undeveloped and does not have a conservation easement on it currently.

Conservation documentation accessible to town departments

Darlene Jarvis reported that she provided Line Comeau, Town Administrator, with data on each of the lots which are in conservation or under a conservation easement. The information, compiled earlier this year by Margaret and Darlene, will be filed by lot number in the town office safe. The data will also be available to all town personnel, including the building department, on the online Vision site as an attachment titled “conservation history”.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, January 26, 2018 - walk in the Kuncanowet Natural Area with a Piscataquog Land Conservancy monitor, tentative time to meet at the trailhead on Everett Dam Road is 1:00 PM

NEXT MEETING: January 9, 2019, 7:30 PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Darlene M. Jarvis