CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: February 13, 2019

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

MINUTES: January’s minutes were accepted

OLD BUSINESS:

Kuncanowet hike

On Saturday, January 26, 2019, the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) and the Conservation Commission sponsored a walk in the Kuncanowet Town Forest and Conservation Area (KTFCA). Over a dozen hikers met at the trailhead where Ron Jarvis described how the tracts of land in the Kuncanowet came to be protected. The group then ventured out on the trail system for a three hour hike led by PLC volunteer, David Butler.

Kimball Pond Conservation Area

Amendment needed for snowmobile trail

Brett St. Clair stated that he has twice emailed Susan Francher from the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) regarding the snowmobile easement in the Kimball Pond Conservation Area. On August 23, 2018 Brett sent Ms. Francher a copy of the current easement agreement and suggested they meet to discuss getting it amended as required. Ms. Francher did not respond. On January 9, 2019, Brett sent Ms. Francher a second email which included a draft of the snowmobile easement (revised) and a map reflecting the current trail location. Brett again offered to meet in person if necessary. Ms. Francher has not responded.

Management of the old “field” area

Members discussed the estimates for herbicide spraying to control the invasive species now flourishing in the cut over area. Some concerns were voiced regarding the spraying. Would the spraying need to be repeated and how often? Can the Commission get the spraying scheduled for this year so as to not lose the area to the invasive species? Having spoken with Stan Sowle, Brett relayed Stan’s suggestion that the Commission wait until Matt Tarr visits the “field” before making any decision regarding the site. Matt is scheduled to walk the area in May.

NEW BUSINESS:
Local landowners explore conservation easement

The Koerber family has begun working with Five Rivers Land Trust to insure that much of their acreage remains undeveloped. Margaret Watkins made a motion that the Conservation Commission approve an expenditure of up to $3000 from the conservation fund for the appraisal of the Koerber property on Route 13. The motion was seconded by Ron Jarvis. Brett suggested that getting multiple bids for the appraisal be a contingent of the motion. The motion carried. (5-0)

NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2019, 7:30PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Darlene M. Jarvis