CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: October 10, 2018

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

MINUTES: August’s minutes were accepted
(Note: In lieu of the Commission’s September meeting at the Town offices, members met at the Bela Brook Conservation Area to do trail work)

OLD BUSINESS:

Kimball Pond Conservation Area (KPCA)

Violations

Dunbarton Police Chief Daniel Sklut and Sergeant Christopher Remillard were in attendance having been invited to discuss the issues at Kimball Pond. Drew Groves reported that he’d recently walked the trail on the west side of the pond. Along Legache Hill Road he found evidence of “camp” fires, drinking, bullet casings and cans used as targets. Drew thanked both officers for checking the area more frequently in response to the Commission’s reports of violations there.

Chief Sklut expressed his believe that the area’s remoteness makes it attractive to those looking to engage in illegal activities. He voiced his concerns regarding damaging the cruisers on Legache Hill Road. However, as the road has gotten more difficult to negotiate, Commission members stated that they have seen less dumping along the road. Members agreed to revisit blocking access to the “spurs” off of the road in the spring since past efforts to have the Town close it have failed.

Monitoring visits

The Kimball Pond Conservation Area has been monitored numerous times recently. Tim Fleury, a forester with UNH, needed to hike the area to complete the NH Forest Stewardship Plan Implementation monitoring report. Mr. Fleury met with Brett St. Clair, Drew Groves, and Stan Sowle to walk the timbered area south of Kimball Pond Road. Some of the Commission’s recently planted seedlings were evident. Tim noticed that bittersweet was present and suggested that a brontosaurus could be brought in to deal with it at some point.

On August 22nd Brett met Steve Walker from the Office of Strategic Initiatives, Conservation Land Stewardship Program, to monitor the Kimball Pond Conservation Area. Mr. Walker continues to be
impressed with Drew’s blazing of the area. The new snowmobile trail segment was discussed. Brett emailed Susan Francher from the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources regarding having the changes to the trail accepted.

Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) program

George Holt briefly described the program. ARM has significant funds for mitigation projects which would offset losses and/or impacts to wetlands due to a project such as the one National Grid may undertake in Dunbarton. George shared a list of the type of projects which might qualify for ARM funding. George suggested that the Commission begin to develop a “priority list” of projects.

Bela Brook Conservation Area trail work update

On the evening of September 11th Brett, Drew, Stan and Ron Jarvis met at the Bela Brook trail head. Ron cleared the small parking area while Brett, Drew and Stan removed trees and brush from the Jim Stone trail. The group assessed a limb which is hung up over the trail and agreed that attempting its removal was more dangerous than leaving it securely lodged where it is.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fall hike

Brett St. Clair asked if the Commission wanted to organize a walk. An educational hike to learn about beavers was suggested. Margaret Watkins volunteered to ask Carol Foss if she would like to lead the hike.

NEXT MEETING: November 14, 2018, 7:30 PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Darlene M. Jarvis