



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes

Mar. 11, 2020
7:00 PM to 10:43 PM

Attending: Bob Larochelle, Anna Faeillo, Chuck Andersen, Liz Fletcher, Chris Pratka, Barbara DeVore, Bob Dillberger, Matt Robinson-Liu

Liz moved we accept February 2020 minutes as amended. Barbara seconded. Passed unanimously.

Met with Jennifer Beck to discuss her proposed deed restrictions for parcel G-3 which she intends to donate to the town. (The BOS has already voted to accept the gift.) After discussion, Bob D moved we accept the deed wording as written, including restrictions. Liz seconded. Passed unanimously.

Re. maple trees for Greenville Rd., Bob L & Chuck volunteered to inspect the area to see if they can determine soil depth. Presence/absence of ledge in the area is unknown but will effect planting significantly.

Met with Carol Messer to discuss her idea for an organized horseback ride on the Rail Trail. Carol reports she has BOS approval to use the ball field for parking. Proposed date is Sunday June 28 (July 19 rain date). Carol predicts no more than 50 riders are likely to attend. Carol assures us the trail be returned to initial or better condition when the ride ends. After discussing various logistical questions, we agreed to invite Carol to return next month with a concrete route plan we can review.

Agreed to hold the required public hearing for our deal with PLC at the start of our April meeting (April 8). Bob D will give a brief presentation about the project.

Liz reports the wetlands permit is all set for the quarry access road bridge work. File no. is 2020-00361, dated Feb. 28, 2020.

Discussed incoming email from our new contact form:

- Rob Doyle asked if we can place turtle and salamander crossing signs at key points. Not something we can take on right now, although Barbara will post a warning about salamander migration on our web page. Liz will draft a response to Rob.
- Trish Pina asked about current use and beaver dams. Two good points, but neither is within our jurisdiction. Bob D will draft a response.

Reviewed status of trails committee. Bob L observed that if all committee members are CC members, we'll have inconvenient requirements on meetings. Can we form a committee with non-members? Can they be covered by town insurance? Do they need to be sworn in? Bob L will investigate these questions.

Re. roadside cleanup (April 19): Barbara reports Charlie Lanni has delivered the needed blue bags. Barbara will make them available at town meeting, community supper, and elsewhere.

Liz reports she's drafted a letter to the landowners (Michael and Carolyn Smith) who created a trail connected to the Rail Trail. Discussed letter content and tone.

Chuck raised a question about OPDMD access to the Mason Quarry from the Scripps Ln. parking area. He noted that the downhill section of Scripps from the parking lot to the Rail Trail is not OPDMD-friendly, which might raise questions about ADA compliance. We do provide easy OPDMD access from the Depot Rd. access point, so it's unclear if this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Regardless, the parcel containing the relevant portion of Scripps Ln. is not conservation land and thus not under CC management.

Action Items

See relevant minutes for more information about these items.

| <i>Added</i> | <i>Done</i> | <i>Who</i> | <i>Item</i> |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|--|
| Jan 2020 | | Bob D. | Draft checklist of conditions to monitor for Fifield easement. |
| Feb 2020 | Feb 2020 | Bob L. | Follow up with DES re. their offer to test well water at 135 Old Ashby Rd. |
| | Feb 2020 | Barbara | Write recommendation letter to BOS for making Trails Committee members alternate CC members. |
| | | Chuck | Review Rail Trail signs w.r.t. to new OPDMD policy. |
| | Feb 2020 | Liz | Speak to Kathy W. about getting on BOS agenda re. PLC purchase of B-4-2 |
| | Feb 2020 | Bob D. | Draft auto-response for public email address and circulate for review. |
| | Feb 2020 | Barbara | Get info about monitoring from Amherst CC. |
| | | Chuck | Investigate sources of sugar maples for Greenville Rd. |
| | Feb 2020 | Liz | Draft letter to landowners with new private trail connection to RR Trail. |
| | Feb 2020 | Bob L. | Draft letter of recommendation to BOS for Chris Pratka appointment. |
| | Feb 2020 | Bob L. | Get GPS coordinate for Quarry access bridge to Liz for wetland permit |
| Mar 2020 | | Bob L | Bring easel for public hearing on April 8. |
| | | Bob D | Respond to Trish Pina's email |
| | | Liz | Respond to Rob Doyle's email |
| | | Bob L | Investigate questions related to trails committee membership. |