



Mason Conservation Commission DRAFT Minutes

June 10, 2020, 7:00 PM to 9:55 PM

This meeting was held electronically using the Town of Mason Zoom account under authority of the Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #16 temporarily modifying the requirements for public access to meetings under RSA 91:A. Pete McGinnity, Selectman, acted as host. The Right-to-Know Law meeting checklist was followed.

Attendance by roll call:

- **Chuck Andersen – present**
- **Barbara DeVore – present**
- **Bob Dillberger – present**
- Anna Faeillo – absent
- **Liz Fletcher – present**
- **Bob Larochele – present**
- **Lundy Lewis – present**

Alternates:

- **Matt Robinson-Liu – present**
- Ann Moser – absent
- Rob Doyle – absent
- Charlie Lanni – absent
- Rosanna Nadeau – absent
- **Chris Pratka – present**

Members of the public attending: Pete McGinnity, Curt Spacht, Kathy Chapman, Garth Fletcher, Darrell Scott, Joseph Harney.

Liz moved we accept May 2020 minutes as amended. Barbara seconded. Barbara: aye, Bob D: aye, Chuck: aye, Lundy: aye, Liz: aye. The motion passed.

Liz moved we pay **\$1,600 to Crafts Appraisal Associates** for an updated appraisal of B-4-2, money to come from the General Fund. Lundy seconded. Bob D: aye, Chuck: aye, Lundy: aye, Liz: aye, Barbara: recused. Motion passed.

Regarding air radon testing at Old Ashby Rd. property, Chuck suggested that if Dennis's testing comes back negative, we should hire a professional contractor to confirm the results. After further discussion, it was agreed we should just hire a professional firm to collect the data and not rely on Dennis. Bob D. will research contractors.

Discussed return visits to the Mason Quarry by the Native Plant Trust to study endangered plants. Agreed that it's worth noting that we expect them to return every 3-5 years but they need to check with us each time and give us two months notice so we can discuss the visit at a public meeting. Liz will draft a letter to them describing our position.

Received email from Mike Judge asking what the CC does to protect water resources during development. Liz will respond describing what we can do and do do, which is limited to reviewing subdivision plans.

Received email from Patricia Cross regarding trail flooding by beavers on the Potter land near the Mason/Greenville town line. Bob D. visited the area and says mitigation will be difficult given the proximity of the trail to the town line. Bob D. will respond to Patricia.

Received email from a resident about a sunken boat in Pratt Pond. Lundy will refer the resident to the state agency that manages Russell-Abbott State Forest.

Discussed matters related to the Trails Committee. Regarding liability, the easiest approach seems to be to ask volunteers to sign a liability waiver for each work project. Regarding doing field work, we need to follow CDC guidelines regarding distancing, masks, etc. Everyone will need to supply their own tools, snacks, water, etc.

Chris Curt Spacht commented that the Trails Committee hasn't officially formed yet; nothing's been signed. He asked if we want a true Committee or just a pool of volunteers that show up to work as needed.

After discussion, Curt, Joe, and Darrell agreed to propose a recommended trail construction & maintenance document for review by the CC. Once we've adopted a trails manual, we can train people in proper techniques, and try an adopt-a-trail program so work can proceed without too much overhead. The volunteer-as-needed approach can still be used for major projects.

Regarding the washout on the Rail Trail south of Depot Rd., discussed whether to solicit bids or ask Amos White if he could do it while he's in the area installing the 3-sided culvert at the Mason Quarry. Decided to ask Amos first and solicit bids if he can't do the work. Bob L will contact Amos.

Regarding work at Mason Quarry, Liz says Jake Olson (Mason Building Inspector) and some volunteers will be there on Sunday to clean up whatever they can find. Bob D. will accompany them.

Chuck asked if the Quarry should be closed because of COVID-19 concerns due to its popularity in the summer months. Barbara reports other towns have had similar issues and have closed parking lots. After discussion, Liz moved that the Mason Quarry parking area be closed for the duration of the pandemic, that we get the two missing RR Trail gates replaced ASAP, and that we ask the BOS to impose a fine for parking violations at the Quarry and on Scripps Ln. Chuck seconded. Barbara: aye, Bob D: aye, Chuck: aye, Lundy: aye, Liz: aye, Bob L: aye. The motion passed. [It was noted that the Quarry itself will not be closed, just the parking area. Mason residents can still access the Quarry by foot, bike, or horseback.](#) Barbara volunteered to investigate getting a sign explaining the closure to be posted at the start of Scripps Ln. Bob L will ask Amos White if he can fix the RR Trail washout, replace the RR Trail gates, and block the entrance to the parking area in a single project.

Re. PLC's Nissittissitt River Headwaters project, the BOS has signed the deed and Tom Jones from PLC will pick it up tomorrow.

Re. new damage at Greeville Rd. overlook, Bob L will ask Dave Baker if he can repair this additional damage for same price previously quoted (\$425). If so, we're done. If not, we'll need an updated quote.

Liz reports that as part of their pole replacement work, Eversource will be extending an access road across conservation land. We agree we should ask them to restore the area after work is complete. Liz will follow up with Eversource.

Barbara reports that Katie Galletta at Bowdoin College is doing a research project about monarch butterflies and milkweed. She is seeking permission to study milkweed on Potter land off Old Ashby Rd. Bob D. observed that permission isn't needed if all she's going to do is observe, which is the current plan.

Liz moved we adjourn. Barbara seconded. Barbara: aye, Bob D: aye, Chuck: aye, Lundy: aye, Liz: aye, Bob L: aye. Meeting adjourned.

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		Chuck	Review Rail Trail signs w.r.t. to new OPDMD policy.
	Mar 2020	Chuck	Investigate sources of sugar maples for Greenville Rd.
Mar 2020		Bob L	Investigate questions related to trails committee membership. Mar 2020
May 2020	May 2020	Bob D	Follow up on email from Neil Faim.
	May 2020	Liz	Send PLC deed for B-4-2 to Tom Quinn for review.
	May 2020	Liz	Follow up with Dane Rota about suggestions for MP chapter.
	May 2020	Bob L & Liz	Write support letters for Craig Fifield easement subdivision.
	May 2020	Liz	Draft letter to BOS asking permission to hire road crew for RR Trail repair.
		Bob D	Investigate contracts for radon remediation at Old Ashby Rd.
June 2020		Bob D	Follow up with Kathy & NHMA about Right-To-Know training.
		Liz	Draft letter to Native Plant Trust about conditions for future visits.
		Liz	Draft letter to Mike Judge re. water resource protection during development.
		Bob D	Respond to enquiry about trail flooding off Merriam Hill Rd.
		Chuck	Notify snowmobile club about downed trails signs.
		Bob D	Follow up with trail volunteers about clearing downed trees at Flo. Roberts Forest.
		Bob L	Contact Amos White about fixing the RR Trail washout, replacing the Mason Quarry gates, and blocking the entrance to the parking area.
		Bob L	Contact Dave Baker about repairing damage at the overlook.
		Bob D	Research professionals to perform radon tests at Old Ashby Rd. property.
		Liz	Contact Eversource about site restoration after pole replacement.