



# Mason Conservation Commission Minutes

Apr. 14, 2021, 7:00 PM to 9:11 PM

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

Attendance by roll call:

- **Chuck Andersen – present**
- **Barbara DeVore – present**
- **Bob Dillberger – present**
- **Liz Fletcher – present**
- **Bob Larochele – present**
- **Lundy Lewis – present**
- **Ann Moser – present**

Alternates:

- Matt Robinson-Liu – absent
- Rob Doyle – absent
- Charlie Lanni – absent
- Rosanna Nadeau – absent
- Chris Pratka – absent

Members of the public attending: Garth Fletcher, Chief Kevin Maxwell.

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Liz moved we waive reading of the Right To Know Law meeting announcement. Bob D seconded. Barbara: aye, Bob D: aye, Liz: aye, Bob L: aye, Lundy: aye, Ann: aye. The motion passed.

Liz moved we accept the March 2021 minutes as amended. Lundy seconded. Barbara: aye, Bob D: aye, Liz: aye, Bob L: aye, Lundy: aye, Ann: aye. The motion passed.

Received a check for \$18,252.63 as final payment for logging B-17-1. Money to be deposited in the General Fund. Budget category: timber harvest.

Received a check for \$1,350.00 from Dennis Graham for rent on 135 Old Ashby Rd. Money to be deposited in the Old Ashby Road fund. Budget category: rental income.

Received a check for \$400 from LCHIP as payment for timely easement monitoring. Money to be deposited in the Stewardship fund. Budget category: stewardship.

Met with Chief Maxwell to discuss options for controlling use of the Mason Quarry Land and parking area. Chief Maxwell likes the idea of a permitting process with placards. We'd want to number them to prevent illegal copying. Chief Maxwell says the police have a system that can issue registration numbers. He also said it doesn't matter to him if the placards hang on the rear-view mirror or sit on the dash. He also said that if someone is issued a parking ticket but is a town resident, they can go to the police and have the ticket nullified. Open question: how to allocate placards? One per household? One per registered vehicle. More than one? Agreed that Ann will present our idea to the BOS.

Met with Mason resident Julie Walsh of 76 Morse Rd. who sent us an email asking about fencing along the stone wall that separates their property from the Mason Rail Trail. A fencing contractor told them it's impractical to install a fence on their side of the wall. They asked if they could locate the fence on the Rail Trail side. Liz noted the land was purchased with a state grant and we'd probably need to seek permission from the state. It would also need permission of the BOS. Barbara noted the "adverse possession" issue in NH state law that can affect ownership based on fence placement. All agreed it was not a good idea to place the fence on Rail Trail land. Chuck suggested Julie contact a contractor who specializes in fencing for rough terrain and who might offer other options for installing fencing on the Walsh's side of the stone wall.

Bob D reports the large pine on the Mason Rail Trail between Sand Pit Rd. and Scripps Ln. has been removed.

Received an email from a member of the Brookline Conservation Commission asking about a policy on use of e-bikes. We currently have no relevant policy, but noted it's something to consider for the future. Ann will respond.

Received an email from a resident asking for advice on clearing trees and brush around a beaver pond. Bob D. will respond.

Liz reported on the Saving Special Places conference workshop "Yes to Forestry & Wilderness" with New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) & North East Wilderness Trust (NEWT). They articulated a goal of having 10% of all conserved land designated as wilderness. Liz asked if we should consider this advice for the forest management plans we're pursuing.

Reviewed the NRCS list of technical service providers (TSP) identifying possible contractors to do a forest management plan for town-owned conservation land. We identified four names who seem like good choices. Agreed to limit initial efforts to three properties: Potter land, Mitchell Brook Wilderness, and Mitchell Hill Land. Bob D. will draft a letter.

Bob L reports the trail volunteers are doing winter cleanup, and have also laid out a route for a new trail. Bob D. noted our policy requires that proposed trail routes be reviewed by the CC before implementation. Bob L. will map the proposed route and present to the CC.

Reminder: paint out wording about permits for fires and camping at the Mason Quarry. Deferred until next month.

Barbara reports the next Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for April 24.

Anna's memorial bench has been ordered and should be ready some time in May.

Liz reports the Planning Board might not hold a hearing for the proposed Wetlands Ordinance until November. Liz suggested to the PB that they hold the first of two hearings sooner.

Received easement monitoring report from SPNHF for the Mason Quarry. No violations were found.

Barbara reports that the field on the Potter land across from the cemetery on Old Ashby Rd. is currently mowed twice a year, a schedule that's not wildlife-friendly. Agreed to ask Wally to mow only once per year in late fall. Barbara will follow up with Wally.

Bob L moved we adjourn. Ann seconded. Bob D: aye, Barbara: aye, Liz: aye, Bob L: aye, Lundy: aye, Ann: aye. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

## Action Items

*See relevant minutes for more information about these items.*

Added	Done	Who	Item
<b>Mar 2021</b>	Mar 2021	Liz	Refer John Bryan to the PB in response to his email about the proposed wetlands buffer ordinance.
	Mar 2021	Liz	Contact PLC about pursuing an easement on the Potter lands.
	Mar 2021	Bob D	Contact NRCS about possible grant for forest management plan on Potter lands.
	Mar 2021	Liz	Contact Louise Lavoie about getting on BOS agenda to discuss Potter easement idea.
	Mar 2021	Barbara	Invite Chief Maxwell to come speak with us about possible solutions to the parking problem at the Mason Quarry.
		Bob D	Add Jennifer Beck property (G-3) to NRI maps and report.
<b>Apr 2021</b>		Bob L	Send VAL map to Julie Walsh showing the relevant property line.
		Ann	Email Brookline CC about e-bike policy.
		Bob D	Respond to resident asking for advice on clearing brush around beaver pond.
		Bob D	Draft letter of enquiry for forest management plans.
		Bob L	Compile list of Trails Committee members and volunteer liability waivers.
	Barbara	Tell Wally about decision to change mowing schedule for Potter field on Old Ashby Rd.	