

**Town of Groton Conservation Commission  
754 North Groton Road  
Groton, NH 03241**

Minutes for the September 26, 2013 meeting

The Groton Conservation Commission convened at 6:35 PM. Members in attendance were Nancy Watson, Miles Sinclair, Steven (Slim) Spafford, Lou Lieto and Paula Stata,

Member Robert Ferriere was absent.

Slim noted that Dave Daut's name was misspelled. Nancy will correct it and send Pam a copy.

Slim made a motion to accept the minutes from August 15, 2013 as corrected. Lou seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

Lou presented the KHPAC update. The next step is the timber cruise and the property value assessment. Although Timbervest has been reluctant to define their methods of evaluation, KHPAC's experts feel they have enough information to be useful in the evaluation.

The town estimated they may need \$15,000 for the two projects and has requested financial assistance from the Conservation Commission. Brian Holtz investigated the Gemmill Fund which reimburses funds for conservation land purchase and found their primary focus is private land owners trying to put land into conservation easements rather than municipal projects. However, since they feel the Kimble Hill project is highly important, they would be willing to reimburse Groton for up to \$7,000 if the negotiations reach the point of a Purchase and Sale Agreement.

The Conservation Commission currently has around \$12,800 in its accounts. The members discussed what other expenditures are potentially in the future, one being a Natural Resource Inventory for the Kimble Hill property.

Lou requested, received and distributed six Natural Resource Inventories Guide Books from the UNH Co-Operative Extension. Boyd Smith from the New Found Lake Regional Association will provide information and maps for the Kimble Hill Property.

Lou had investigated the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions. The benefits to Groton Conservation could be contacts and information from other conservation commissions in the state. Since its halfway through the year, Groton CC could join for \$200 for 18 months.

The CC discussed the progress on the Groton Pond Bridge. Some work has been done on the shore and in the stream bed. Construction materials are starting to accumulate.

Miles said there had been some discussion of the bridge plan being amended. The CC's major concern was that the bridge would be high enough for flood debris and ice to move under and/or around the bridge without damaging the bridge or its head walls or abutments.

The Conservation discussed the meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. The general feeling was to go back to the second Thursday of the month. It was also suggested that the meeting time be changed back to 7:00 PM

As part of the ongoing discussion of increasing public awareness of Groton's ecology, the CC again discussed the possibility of showing the 48 minute movie "A People's Forest" about the Weeks act and the forming of the White Mountain National Forest. If we can't get the long movie, we also have the 12 minute movie the tells the same story without all the drama. Lou offered to investigate the possibilities.

**Moved by Paula, seconded by Nancy**

The Conservation Commission agrees to donate to the Town of Groton a maximum of \$7,000 to be used for the purposes of offsetting the cost of a timber cruise and a property appraisal on the Kimball Hill property. Should the Town be successful at obtaining a Purchase and Sales Agreement for this property, and thereby qualifying for reimbursement from the Gemmill Foundation or another similar source, we respectfully request that the Town use those funds to reimburse the Conservation Commission.

*Motion passed: Yes - 4, No - 0, Abstain - 1, Absent - 1*

**Moved by Lou, seconded by Paula**

The Conservation Commission agrees to join the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) for the next 18 months at a cost of \$200.

*Motion passed: Yes - 4, No - 0, Abstain - 1, Absent - 1*

**Moved by Lou, seconded by Nancy**

The Conservation Commission volunteers Bob to attend the next Grafton County Conservation meeting in October.

*Motion passed: Yes - 4, No - 0, Abstain - 1, Absent - 1*

**Moved by Lou, seconded by Slim**

The Conservation Commission will revise the meeting schedule to the second Thursday of each month and set the meeting time to 7:00 PM (a change from the 6:30 PM meeting time),

*Motion passed: Yes - 4, No - 0, Abstain - 1, Absent - 1*

The Commission reviewed the suggested names for the Commission pond behind the town garage. *The discussion and decision was postponed.*

**Moved by Nancy, seconded by Slim**

The meeting should adjourn at 7:50 PM

*Motion passes: Yes - 4, No - 0, Abstain - 1, Absent - 1*