

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

Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2014

The Groton Conservation Commission convened at 7:08 PM. Members in attendance were Robert Ferriere, Louis Lieto and Nancy Watson.

Steve (Slim) Spafford was absent.

The minutes from the July 10, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Bob motioned to accept the minutes as written and Lou seconded. The motion passed Yes - 3, No - 0, Absent - 1. The minutes from the August 14, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Bob motioned to accept the minutes as written and Nancy seconded. The motion passed Yes - 3, No - 0, Absent - 1.

The CC budget needs to be submitted by September 26, 2014. \$500 was allotted last year for the Kimball Hill mailing, which did not occur. The CC funded the fishing derby, which was not anticipated. Expenses last year totaled \$1,000 and the budget allotment was \$1,300. Anticipated expenses for the coming year include:

Saving Special Places - \$60 per person, with two people attending. Lou will confirm the exact cost.

NHCC Meeting - Lou will check on the amount for yearly dues.

Sign, reimbursement for mileage to meetings - not necessary this year.

Fishing Derby - Expense was just shy of \$700. If the CC decides to increase the amount of fish next year, the cost will be slightly more (approximately \$800).

Mileage - \$200 - Amount could be cut in half, but the CC will leave it the same for now.

Special Event - Guest speaker - \$200.

A discussion was held about the Groton Town Pond. Lou spoke to Glen about storing the fish food and this is no problem. Glen did not like the idea of controlling access over the bridge with a chain and suggested concrete blocks which the highway department can move as needed. He is concerned about people parking cars at the pond area. Lou will obtain a legal opinion about using the blocks. A suggestion was made to purchase a trash can for the area, along with the posting of signs stating "no littering" and "foot traffic only". Lou will purchase the trash can.

The NHACC annual meeting will take place in November and Lou is interested in attending.

Bob discovered photos on file of a Skate and Slide event which took place at the Groton Town Pond in 2010. Maybe the CC could hold a similar event for this winter.

CC Membership - Jo O'Connor has not returned Lou's email mails about placing a request for members to join in her newspaper column. Nancy and Bob will contact Jo and follow up. Lou will pitch CC membership at the next annual town meeting.

The tour of the town properties - walkabout is scheduled for the next meeting on October 9, 2014. The CC will meet one hour earlier at 6:00 PM. Bob will ask Sara to photocopy the reference maps for each property beforehand. CC members should bring along their individual ideas and record observations and features, both positive and negative while on this tour.

A review of the NRI and PSU discussions was noted. PSU was interested in studying a larger area of land in anticipation of Kimball Hill. This is no longer an interest. The CC should first determine a focus area and activity, possibly for a college student and then move forward. The services may have to be paid for with CC funds. A suggestion was made to have a professional who completes NRI's come speak at a meeting. Bob will contact the Hebron CC and Lou will contact the Dorchester CC to ask if they know who may be interested in speaking about NRI's before Groton's CC.

Bob will ask Sara to post the CC meeting minutes and meeting schedule on the town website. Perhaps this will increase public interest and involvement in the commission.

Lou moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Bob seconded. The motion passed Yes - 3, No - 0, Absent - 1.

Next meetings - Please note corrections from agenda:

October 9
November 13
December 11 (LRL unavailable)
January 8

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Watson
Conservation Commission Secretary
September 22, 2014