



## Meeting Minutes October 8, 2019

**Present:** Todd Hathaway, Dan McCombs, Sandy Goodspeed, John Gabour, Ben Bade, Liz Wilson, Scott Pim

**Absent:** None

**Call to Order:** 7:08 p.m.

### **Photo Contest Winner**

Scott presented a blown-up print of the winning photo to Gregory Pawlak.

### **Citizens for Epping/Granite Bridge**

Elaine Gatchell explained that their group is concerned about the local gas line and tank projects and the inability of local residents to weigh in. She and her group feel that the lines are dangerous. She asked about the Commission's ability under applicable rules to issue opinions. Scott and Todd explained the scope of the Commission's purposes, which include working with the public to promote the protection of natural resources and providing input on development. There is a PUC meeting on the project next week where members of her group will listen. She or another member of her group will report back at our next meeting.

### **Minutes from September 10, 2019**

The Members unanimously approved the Minutes from September 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Financial Report**

\$51,560.86 in all accounts as September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Hall Easement, Low Park and Miriam Jackson Signage**

Todd reported that the signage contractor expects to place the Miriam Jackson sign first within a few weeks, and then the Low Park sign, which is presently being sandblasted and granite posts cut. The contractor will coordinate dates with us so that we can select the final locations. For the Hall Easement signage, the signage contractor was not able to provide a more competitive quote. Ben will work on obtaining other quotes. The expectation is that we would need 50-100 signs.



## Meeting Minutes October 8, 2019

### **Low Park Trail Work and Clean Up**

Several of the Members continued clean-up of the parking area and marking of the trail, which should be around 1.5 miles. Todd will procure signage from the Folsom Trails sign maker once the trail is laid out. Sandy will work the DPW staff about cleaning out around the concrete pad.

### **Miriam Jackson Park Seedlings**

Sandy presented a PowerPoint presentation on her work on the property. She planted 3 dogwood seedlings, but identified a significant amount Japanese Knotweed. She contacted DPW and they will begin treating it. (Which is required every fall for several years.) She also removed the lectern. It has been a couple of weeks and the seedlings are doing well. There are two rotten benches and an old picnic table on-site. Ben agreed to remove them and the Members will decide whether to replace them. He will also look at potential locations for the new sign.

### **Tilton Kiosk Sign and Trail-LRAC Grant**

Sandy reported that the final report has been completed. She reported that a "lesson learned" was that there should be more public outreach for projects like this one. The Members discussed various strategies for exposing the public to the town conservation areas. Dan expressed interest in exploring State outreach programming.

### **Fox Run Graffiti**

Scott spent several hours attempting removal and found that each tree essentially required a different solution. There is one more tree left. There are also a number of rocks that still need work and Scott wondered if Jerry Langdon could assist from his property with a power washer. Ben also worked on the signage. Sandy raised again the possibility of creating a kiosk and placing more alphabet letters on the trail. Dan will reach out to one of the commentators on our social media post about the graffiti who worked on the trail several years ago to see if he knows anything about the original alphabet trail design.

### **Bear Program**

Liz has not yet connected with Fish and Game to obtain resources and background information, but will continue to try to do so.



## Meeting Minutes October 8, 2019

### School Update

Liz met with new 5<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher Ms. Hill to discuss this year's plans for the scavenger hunt project and introduce the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes to the work of the Commission. Ms. Hill is also considering a more tangible project for the students to work on and Liz send her a link to the outreach section of the NRI to consider. Dan also completed the volunteer orientation to help with school projects.

### Photo Contest

The Members discussed whether to continue the contest and agreed to do so, but invite the public to start early so that we could get more fall and winter photos. Dan will post something on social media.

### Joel Harris

Ben obtained a final proposal for a plaque, under the \$50 approved last month by the Members. Sandy will invite Joel to the next meeting for the presentation.

### Web Update

Dan coordinated with the Town about updating their website. The meeting minutes are now up to date. He also updated the Google Drive sub directory. He also renewed the auto pay for the website hosting, although downgraded the service to match what we are actually using. The Members unanimously agreed to reimburse Dan \$105.42 for the hosting fee. Sandy raised the issue about supplying content for the website. Todd will provide an updated description for Folsom and Sandy will update Tilton. Sandy also asked about potential changes to the site related to the UNH Tool Library and Speak Up Epping?

### NRI

Sandy raised the question of whether we are doing enough with the NRI. Liz considered this issue and felt that outreach is likely the most critical first step since it drives policy and conservation action.

### NHACC

The Members unanimously approved to pay the NHACC 2020 membership dues of \$375. The benefits discussed include educational programming, support for conservation related issues and advocacy.

