**MINUTES**

**Epsom, NH Conservation Committee**

**DATE, January 18, 2018**

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| **Attendees** | **Guests** |
| Sarah Barnum, Member  Cal Preston, Member  Denyce Gagne, Member  Elsie Fife, Member  Kate Champney, Member |  |

**Old Business:**

* Sarah, Cal, and Denyce met with the owner of the paintball property and viewed the wetlands in October. All parties agreed to a minimum 100 foot buffer to the wetlands. A letter to the owner, to be copied to the Epsom ZBA, was drafted and approved. Denyce will sign for Alison in her absence and mail the letter out.
* Denyce has completed paperwork for monitoring the Smith Easement which was reviewed at the meeting. Sarah will complete the paperwork for Stewart. Paperwork is overdue, so we will submit what we have.
* The Selectboard is still undecided whether to approve conservation funds for the assessments of the pending Hickey and Harkness easements. Sarah will follow up.

**New Business:**

* The Town has a new contract with Virtual Towns & Schools Web Design so the Con Com will have the opportunity to update their web page in the future. For now, Denyce will get minutes and updated contact info posted to the existing page.
* The Con Com submission for the 2017 Town Report is due at the end of the month. Kate will draft something and send it out for review by other members.
* Town Forest update: The Con Com does not have funding to fix the failed culvert crossing on Tarleton Rd. Hoping to include it in the next timber sale but we don’t know when the next entry is. A temporary pedestrian bridge was discussed but wondered about liability if it becomes unstable in high water and it would also act as a dam for water and debris flowing over the road which could make it worse.
* Tim Fleury, Forester with UNH Cooperative Extension, requested help of the Con Com to complete data forms for a GIS layer on Town-owned Conservation Lands. Denyce and Sarah will try to help him out.
* Trail update: Denyce, Glenn Horner (ZBA/Economic Development Committee),and Craig Tufts (Planning Commission) walked the stretch of rail trail from Short Falls Rd to the bridge wash out on Little Suncook. This will be the 1st phase of trying to establish an official trail system. Several other opportunities exist for a 2nd phase, TBD.

**Next meeting: February 15, 2018**