

MINUTES

Epsom, NH Conservation Committee

September 21, 2017

Attendees	Guests
Alison Parodi, Chair Sarah Barnum, Member Cal Preston, Member Denyce Gagne, Member Elsie Fife, Member	Michael Foote

Old Business:

- Alison and Bear Paw met with Alan Barton to discuss conservation of several of his properties which include two parcels in Epsom abutting the Town Forest, one of which the Neville Peak trail crosses. Bear Paw is asking both Towns to split the cost of the appraisal which will cover all properties. The ECC voted unanimously in favor to spend \$900 toward half the appraisal costs. Alison will bring the request to the Planning Board.
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- Alison gave an update on the budget expenditures; the Planning Board denied the ECC request to spend funds on conservation projects that do not guarantee public access and do not focus on projects the ECC has previously identified as focus areas.
- Denyce stated there is no update to the Economic Development Committees Town trail project.
- The culvert at the outlet to Mill Pond is still exposed. Cal will try to get access to equipment to backfill and protect the culvert.

New Business:

- The ECC prepared the budget request for 2018. It includes requested increases in dues and subscriptions, land management (for Town Forest infrastructure improvements) and land acquisition due to the potential for acquiring fee-ownership or easements on the Barton properties.

- Michael Foote proactively and voluntarily addressed the ECC prior to submitting a wetland permit renewal application to put a driveway in for a subdivision. Several members of the ECC will make a site visit in Oct to walk the property.
- A request for a paintball recreation area came into the Zoning Board; the Zoning Board requested the owners contact the ECC as it was likely that there would be wildlife impacts. Sarah and Cal were able to make a short-notice site visit but there was no time for the ECC to discuss the project prior to the Zoning Board's vote on the project. Denyce was able to attend the ZBA hearing and speak for the ECC, explaining that though we were not necessarily opposed, we could not support the project under its current configuration with very small buffer zones to the wetlands. The ZBA included a condition in their approval that the owners work with the ECC to minimize environmental impacts of the project. ECC members agreed that a second site visit was a good idea as the entire property was not accessible when Sarah and Cal visited. Denyce will follow up with the owner to try and schedule another visit, hopefully in late fall when the leaves are down, and Sarah will follow up with the Town of Candia to see what kind of impacts they've seen from paintball areas in their town.
- Denyce needs to follow up with getting ECC minutes posted to the Town website.
- The NH Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting and conference is scheduled for Nov 4.

Next meeting: October 19, 2017.