

Minutes of the Roxbury Conservation Commission
8/23/16

Prior to the meeting Gerry Davis, selectman, appointed Michele Drogue (Chairperson), Dream Tardiff, Barbara Neylan and Alice Funk as members of the Commission.

Our first meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM. Alice Funk offered to record the minutes. We discussed the definition of a conservation commission:

- no power to "take" private property
- will be a resource if property owner wants to do a conservation easement
- will be made up of local volunteers to study and protect natural resources.

We reviewed various mission statements of other towns and chose key sentences from these in order to write up our own mission statement. This will be printed up and edited/voted on at our next meeting:

(Temporary) Mission Statement

It is our primary goal to work with Roxbury landowners to provide for protection and access to our public lands which is essential to the appreciation of their value. The Commission provides a focal point within our Town government for environmental concerns and may advise the planning board and other local bodies on conservation matters.

There is an annual fee to be a member of the NH Conservation Commission of \$215, which is waived for the first year. We must go to our Town budget hearing in late February to present this fee to the selectmen for consideration.

Activities:

Must do:

- inventory of natural resources, research into local land and water areas.
- index of open space, marshland, wetland, forest, etc.

We questioned whether this includes the whole Town or public lands only. We have no public lands except the rights of way on old town roads. Perhaps sending a survey to residents was suggested. One member has the name of a wildlife biologist who has inventoried her land and would be available for a fee. Possibly we could write a grant to fund this.

- coordinate help (see form that Michelle has)
- keep accurate records of meetings and activities

We will need to do grant writing. Several Town residents have experience with this and may be able to advise us and/or State or Cheshire County Conservation Commissions can provide grant-writing advisors.

Other things to do:

- Get info on conservation easement process, prepare a hand out with simple questions and answers. Michelle took course in college and still has books on this topic.

- Railroad beds- find out who owns them and if there is any public right of way. Long term goal to approach abutting landowners to see if they will allow usage of these trails. Liability issues?

- the Commission can receive gifts of money and property which are then managed by the Commission for the Town.

- We reviewed NH State Conservation Commission info which suggested working on invasive species issues and many projects to do down the road.

- Limitations of the Commission? This is too vague and we can't decide these now.

- talk to Keene Conservation Commission about the Keene-owned watershed property in Roxbury.

- State Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting is November 12th, 8-4:30, at Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH.

We agreed to meet every other month from 6-8 PM, finishing earlier as necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Funk, secretary