

Town of Bartlett

Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday April 13, 2021

Meeting held at Gazebo in the park at corner of River St and US Route 302

Attendees: Chairman Chris Fithian, Mike Morin, Jesse Jameson

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

Fithian emphasizes the need to post our meeting minutes on the web for public access, as well as post agendas when we have them for upcoming meetings. States that he thinks a recorder may have been purchased for recording meeting minutes and will look into. Jameson states she can try to record meetings on her phone to transcribe later in the meantime. Jameson will post minutes to the Conservation Commission's google drive and Fithian will then send them to Mary to be shared on the town website.

Conservation Commission has received a copy of an application submitted to NHDES for Glen Ellis Campground Wetlands Permitting. The application is very detailed and includes a letter from an abutter to the property. When collecting the application, Fithian had an interaction with Selectman Chandler who stated he wanted the Conservation Commission to weigh in on the application and also introduced Fithian to another abutter to the property, Richard Plush, who indicated to Fithian that he bothered by the scale of the work being done.

Morin asks if it is in our purview to register concern about the impact the project will have on river quality and states that since we are the headwaters of the Saco, what we do affects everything downstream of us.

Fithian states that we have an advisory role and can register concerns. Morin and Fithian discuss finding out who our contact at DES is, and also suggest the idea of a collaboration with other organizations such as Saco Headwaters Alliance to prepare a comment. Morin will reach out to Barbara Richter, the Executive Director for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, to get her advice on how we can best offer our involvement. As a next step Fithian will also find out when comments are due on the application.

Fithian then moves the discussion to communication recently received from Rich with Saco Headwaters Alliance as a follow up to the presentation in February. There is a lot of information that we will need to help fill in on the survey/assessment that was sent. He also references a recent discussion he had with Mark Dindorf and expresses the importance of getting the various groups who have a say to talk through a strategy for the river.

Morin emphasizes that Warrant Articles are how things get done and that we should collaborate with SHA and LAC.

Fithian says we should push our work on the source water assessment from SHA along and when they are ready to give findings we should organize a meeting with all groups/interested parties. Says we should try and schedule a meeting with Rich for two months out.

Jameson mentions that while on the subject of river health and management, the town of Conway will start charging for parking at places like First Bridge which could potentially increase usage of river access points in our area. A few places of concern could be Big Rock, Town Hall Rd, and Second Iron. She suggests an idea raised in a previous meeting by Morin, that we organize a few voluntary river clean up days.

Morin agrees and says that once again this comes back to collaboration and that one town going it alone to make rules is not the best big picture solution.

Fithian says that he believes Big Rock is town property and that we may have some sort of say in its management.

Morin suggests that we document what happens with usage this summer. Jameson agrees and says while there is not time for us to make any big changes before the summer season, we should document and have data available after the summer to support any proposed changes.

Fithian suggests we should keep this discussion going. Morin and Jameson suggest the possibility of getting nice signs in place that encourage visitors to pack out trash, and that this in conjunction with river clean up days might show visitors that as a town we care about want these areas to be treated with respect. Fithian adds that if we post an agenda for next meeting we should add this in the hope of getting more public feedback.

Decision is made to host next meeting at the same gazebo location.

There being no further business meeting is adjourned at 7:51 pm.