

Bartlett Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

10/10/23

Present: Colleen Ryan, Steve Frackleton, Craig Billie, Mike Morin, Chris Fithian

Guest: Tom Gross

Meeting called to order at 6:02

New business:

Tom presented on an effort by the Saco Headwaters Alliance, the North Country Council, NH Fish and Game, Green Mountain Conservation Group

Assessed 1200 culverts in their 13-town region; 450 are in need of modernization. Cost would be around \$100 million. They are applying for a FEMA BRIC grant for a Financial Strategy Feasibility Planning Process of how the towns and state could work together toward a cooperative funding agreement to upgrade these 450 culverts.

The goal is to reduce flooding damage to human and natural infrastructure, reduce water pollution, and enhance aquatic organism passage. The Northeast is region of the US with greatest increase in flooding and severe weather, with impacts to human health and safety, built and natural infrastructure,

Criteria include size (flood risk), condition, fit between stream characteristics and culvert design.

They are looking for letters of support from all of the towns, including Bartlett, for a feasibility analysis that would include gathering information from town, state, and federal agencies. There would be no financial commitment at this point. They would likely want to meet with all the related town agencies (road agent, planning board, etc.) as part of the process, but the level of participation will be developed in consultation with the towns.

The Conservation Commission agreed unanimously to support a request to the select board to provide a letter of support. Chris will assist Tom with approaching the Select Board to get in their agenda in early November.

We were also notified of a complaint that NH DES received against River Run Co. relating to a development on Vale Way. The complaint alleges that the developer altered more than 100,000 square feet of terrain without a permit. Steve will follow up with DES for more information.

Old business:

Invasive plant workshop: The Commission hosted an invasive plant identification workshop with Doug Cygan of the NH Dept. of Agriculture on Sept. 21 with about 8 people in attendance. There were not too many invasive species on the site, but Doug shared some helpful information on strategies for treating invasive species. The next step may be a presentation in cooperation with some other towns and organizations: Jackson Cross Country has a significant invasive plant problem.

The commission discussed the possibility of creating an invasive plant management test site, potentially at the River St. Bridge. The commission will meet at the town beach to do a site visit on October 21 at 10 am.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm

Action items:

Everyone will review the proposed warrant articles that Chris sent around and think about a proposed budget to discuss at next meeting.

Steve will contact Doug Cygan about requirements/training for herbicide application.

Next meeting: November 14 @ 6pm