

**MADISON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 1, 2016
REGULAR MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Riss– Chair, Marcia McKenna, Nancy Devine,
Josh Shackford – Selectmen Rep, Robbin Rancourt – alternate

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Marc Ohlson, Ralph Lutjen and Ted Slader– alternate

OTHERS PRESENT: Colleen King – Land Use Administrative Assistant,
Peggy Cromwell and Pete Pulsifer- M.A.T.E

MEETING POSTED: 8/25/2016 at Town Hall (upper & lower levels), Madison Post Office,
and Silver Lake Post Office

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Riss called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The June 2, 2016 minutes were reviewed and edits made..
Ms. McKenna motioned to approve as amended; Mr Shackford seconded. All approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mrs. Cromwell and Mr Pulsifer are representatives of Madison Association of Tenant Enterprises (MATE), a homeowner group around Davis Pond. Their concern was about an easement over the MATE road system which allows ATVs to be used. There are 3 lots for sale by 2 different owners and the lots abut the Davis Pond MATE land. They wanted to know if the Conservation Commission would be interested in purchasing these lots and if so, would MATE still be allowed to use ATVs and other off-road recreational vehicles. Dr. Riss explained that the Conservation Commission acquires land which is valuable for resource management, such as the Chain of Pond properties. There was a brief discussion on the Chain of Pond land. Mr. Rancourt stated that the Town does not want to purchase land with restrictions. Dr. Riss stated that if the Conservation Commission decides at some future time to purchase this land, they will contact MATE.

OLD BUSINESS & CONTINUING PROJECTS:

WILLIAM BARCLAY LAND DONATION -The lawyer is still working on the deed and Mr. Barclay is working on getting an appraisal. Dr. Riss requested that Mrs. King contact Attorney Peter Bronstein about the deed and Mr Barclay about the appraisal.

OLD HOME WEEK RECAP- The Speaker on Coyotes on Sunday August 7 was well received with 20 people in attendance. Dr. Riss asked if this lecture series should be continued for 2017, given that the cost was approximately \$250.00.

On Tuesday August 9, Mr. Ohlson led 20 people of various ages on a hike on the Chamberlain Ledge across Mike Hathaway's land. Dr. Riss asked Mrs King to send a thank you note to Mike and Penny Hathaway.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS—As a follow-up to the May, 2016 meeting, Mr Young, (Mrs. King’s predecessor) delivered a set of plans to the library, which are now accessible for the public to review.

1. Wold Lot Forest - Mr. Ohlson will summarize at the next meeting.

2. Goodwin-Burke Town Forest

- Dr. Riss explained that the Burn Permit from the Nature Conservancy has expired.

-The Town of Madison Highway crew did an excellent job dealing with the aftermath of the microburst along Lead Mine Rd, East Shore Rd and the foot of Silver Lake. Dr. Riss stated that according to Jeff Lougee, Nature Conservancy, there are still trees which need to be taken down under the power lines. It might be less than \$1000.00 and the trees would be marked by Nature Conservancy.

-There was much tree damage on the Jackman Ridge forest trail and Dr. Riss requested that Tim Nolan, Town Forest Land Improvement, walk the trail system to determine the extent of the damage. Mr. Nolan estimated that the clean-up cost would range from \$700.00 - \$1000.00. Dr. Riss would like to seek approval from the Selectmen to invest in the annual clean-up of the trail. Ms. McKenna stated that it important to keep the trails clear of limbs and downed trees. Mr. Rancourt suggested waiting until spring as there will be other debris and tree limbs down over the winter. Dr. Riss recommended that there be a clean-up now and a winter clean-up in the spring. Mr. Shackford suggested that the clean-up be combined with Lead Mine Road as there are 3-4 big trees down there. Mr Rancourt will call Mr. Nolan.

Motion – Dr. Riss called for a Motion.

Ms. Devine motioned to approve the expenditure of up to \$1000.00 for trail clean-up; seconded by Ms McKenna. All Approved.

A Request to Purchase will be submitted to the Selectmen.

These funds will come from the Forest Maintenance Account.

-Mowing of the Goodwin Forest trails needs to be done. Ms. McKenna stated that high grass will invite ticks and we need to limit exposure. Discussion followed.

Motion - Dr. Riss called for a Motion.

Ms. Devine motioned to approve the expenditure of \$700.00 for the purposes of mowing the access roads and the lower parking lot field; Ms. McKenna seconded.

All approved. A Request to Purchase form will be submitted to the Selectmen.

These funds will come from the Forest Maintenance Account.

-Old Lead Mine Pit/Goodwin Forest Eagle Scout Project. Mr Garrett Boyd gave an update on his trail kiosk. His project is in the touch-up stage of trimming around the sign, painting and then filling the boxes with sand, soil and flowers. Mr Boyd thanked the Madison Historical Society for their support and help with the graphics. The sign was laminated with plexiglas trim. Luckily, the kiosk escaped damage during the recent storm as it was 18” away from the microburst destroying it.

Dr. Riss inquired about the cost of the project and if there had been any fundraising activities to help defray the cost. Mr Boyd's parents helped him with some expenses and he estimated that the cost to be \$1000.00. Ms. McKenna asked how did project plan evolve. Mr. Boyd spent most of his junior and senior year of high school designing the project. Dr. Riss asked the Commission if they wanted to support and fund part of the Eagle Project, if approved by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Rancourt stated that the Conservation Commission should contribute and that the funds should come from the Forest Management account.

Motion – Dr. Riss called for a Motion.

Ms. Devine motioned to approve a \$500.00 donation to this Eagle Scout project.

Ms. McKenna seconded. All approved. A Request to Purchase form will be submitted to the Selectmen. These funds will come from the Forest Maintenance account.

-The extension of the Brook Trail system will be discussed at the next meeting.

-The gating of the road to the Freedom forest was discussed. Selectman Shackford stated that Class 6 roads should not be gated if it is a municipal trail. The Board of Selectmen can declare and identify it as an Emergency Lane.

3. Ward Lot Forest– Dr. Riss reviewed the four items which need to be done and remain on the agenda: repainting western and northern boundary, removal of Japanese Knotweed, partnering with the Madison elementary school to build bluebird boxes, and re-mark the recreational trail. Dr. Riss reported that red markers were purchased to use to blaze the trail, at a cost of \$52.46. He submitted a breakdown of expenses and a receipt from Lowe's Home Store.

Motion - Dr. Riss Called for a Motion.

Ms. Devine motioned to approve the re-imbusement of \$52.46 to Dr. Riss for the expenses incurred to re-mark the trail. Ms. McKenna seconded. All approved. A Request to Purchase will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen. These funds will come from the Forest Maintenance account.

-The Japanese Knotweed was in a stump dump used by the highway department. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

-Ms. Devine reported that the Cascade Trail looks good; however, on Hurricane Point, there are trees down with much overgrowth. Hand-trimming needs to be done.

4. Blair's Location– No update at this meeting. Mr. Lutjen will review the management plan at the next meeting. Three things needed to be kept on the agenda; the boundary lines needed to be repainting, wood duck boxes needed to be built, and the riparian zone needed to be set.

5.B & M Lots–No report at this meeting.

TOWN CONSERVATION LANDS- No report for this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Veilleux Advisory Worksheet Request

As discussed at the June meeting, the Veilleux submitted an Advisory Worksheet requesting that the Conservation Commission review the condition of the trees surrounding their property. Selectman Shackford suggested that a Forest Land professional review the condition of the trees. Dr. Riss will email Mr. Tim Nolan and request that he identify any trees that are dead, damaged or in declining condition.

Nature Conservancy

There is land for sale at the foot of Cook's Pond and the Conservancy wants to know if the Conservation Commission would be interested in purchasing it. The asking price is \$200,000.00. Dr. Riss stated that this location and use of the property is not what the Commission wants to spend money on and declined the offer. Jeff Lougee from the Conservancy will be present at the next meeting.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT- Selectman Shackford reiterated that the Highway crew did an excellent job responding to the tree damage at the foot of Silver Lake from the microburst.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT- No report for this meeting

FRIEND'S OF MADISON BOULDER- No report for this meeting

ADMINISTRATION & CORRESPONDENCE- Dr. Riss welcomed Mrs. King, who replaced Mr Young and asked that she tell the Commission about her background.

ADJOURNMENT- Ms. Devine made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm; motion seconded by Ms. McKenna. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen King
Land Use Boards Administrative Assistant