



PO BOX 248
MADISON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03849
planning@madison-nh.org
Phone: 603-367-4332x302 Fax: 603-367-4547

**APPROVED MINUTES
MAY 6, 2021**

MEMBERS ROLL CALL:

Marcia McKenna, Chair – Present	Noreen Downs - Present
Ralph Lutjen - Present	Bill Lord - Present
Marc Ohlson - Present	Emily Bass - Excused
Ted Slader - Present	Robert Stone - Present

OTHERS PRESENT:

Colleen King - Land Use Administrator, Moselle Spiller - Madison TV
Tim Nolan - Forest Land Improvement and Mike Wehmeyer

MEETING POSTED: April 28, 2021 at Town Hall (upper and lower), Madison & Silver Lake PO

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. McKenna called the meeting to order at 7:04pm and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Conservation Commission since November, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Tim Nolan, Forest Land Improvement

Timber Harvest - Mr. Nolan gave an update on the timber harvest which occurred just before Christmas 2020 on the Everett Parker Lot and a small portion of the Goodwin-Burke Forest. Things went well and he was pleased with the results. On the Everett Parker Lot, the harvesting footprint occurred on roughly 60 acres out of a total of 85 acres. Within this area, 17 group selection opening patches were placed, designed to develop regeneration, improve wildlife habitat and diversify the age structure. These openings ranged from .3ac to 1.5ac in size, with a total area of 12.16 acres. This represents 20% of the harvest area. Financially, the Town netted \$32,903. in stumpage proceeds, another \$4,009. in Timber Tax revenue, and there was just over \$2000.00 in infrastructure/access improvement made as part of this sale. There are still the seeding/mulching costs to incur this Spring which will be in the neighborhood of \$2,000.

Mr. Nolan will need to go back when the land dries out from all the rain, to tidy up & stabilize the area, seed & lime. He will bring in the excavator near the end of May.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES PROPOSAL FOR 2021

Mr. Nolan reviewed the proposals for the various Town Forests. There are the necessary and regularly scheduled items along with two potential projects.

1. Post-Harvest Seeding on the Goodwin-Burke and Downs property - Following the Khiel's cleanup and waterbarring of the main skidroad and landing. Apply lime, seed, fertilizer and mulch, as needed. Cost - \$1500 -\$2000.

2. Mowing and Brushing Backwoods Roads - These are done every year on the Goodwin-Burke Forest. The wood roads and the 3 landings in the Western section of the property off Lead Mine Road are mowed in late July prior to Old Home Week. Cost - \$600.

3. Goodwin-Burke Forest - Brush back edges of main woods road and fire road to permit full width mowing. Cost - Billed at a rate of \$55/hr, not to exceed \$1050.

4. Trail Maintenance - Goodwin-Burke and Wold Lot - Remove debris, brushsaw and leaf blow the Jackman Ridge Trail, Black Brook Bog Trail and the Wold Lot Trails. This work to be completed in late July, prior to Old Home Week. Cost - Billed at a rate of \$55/hr, not to exceed \$1450.

Total Cost of necessary and regularly scheduled items - NOT to exceed \$5100.

MOTION was made by Ms. McKenna and seconded by Mr. Lord to **APPROVE to 2021 Proposal** as presented, not to exceed \$5100 and paid from the Forest Management Account. Individual line items may be invoiced and paid individually. **ALL APPROVED.**

Mr. Lutjen requested that a Map showing the Forest Management Plan be presented at a future meeting.

When Mr. Nolan observed that the field on the Wold Lot had been growing in, Mr. Ohlson stated that it has now been mowed by his son who will also mow the landing from Deer Trot. The Commission thanked Mr. Ohlson's son for his assistance.

Mrs. King received a phone call asking if Mr. Nolan would look at trees on the town land near the Veilleux's property. There appear to be some trees in varying degrees of decay which may need to be viewed by a professional and possibly flagged for removal. Mr. Nolan will contact the Veilleux's.

OLD BUSINESS:

TRAIL MAP UPDATE: Mr. Slader reported that at the November 2020 meeting a Motion for 4000ct additional trail maps was approved. The maps have been printed and some have been distributed.

BAT HOUSES: Mr. Slader reported that a bat house project may not be too promising because of where they would be installed. The Webelo Scout Troop has disbanded since Covid-19. There may be an alternative - Wood Duck Boxes. They are easy to build and the Scouts could help maintain them. He will talk to the Scout leader and check on the cost.

TREES ON WINTER ROAD UPDATE: Mr. Lord reported that the tree which were taken down are now behind Town Hall. They will be milled into boards free of charge for only the cost of gas. The boards will be made into a bench at the ballfields and the Veteran's Memorial A plaque will be made. The DPW will raise the WWI monument onto a larger boulder.

BARCLAY PROPERTY: Mr. Lord reported that the sign is up on a tree.

OLD HOME WEEK: The Commission decided to reschedule the Squam Lake Science Center presentation for this year's OHW event. Mrs. King will confirm.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRAIL ENTRANCE: Mr. Slader reported that there is damage to the slope near the trail entrance which has been caused by people walking up the slope instead of the trail entrance. He had made some wooden directional arrows but something permanent needs to be in place. It is a Town building. Mr. Lutjen suggested a split rail fence. Mr. Lord will talk with the DPW about it.

NEW BUSINESS:

ELECTIONS: Ms. McKenna announced that she will be moving out of the area before the Fall and is happy to remain Chair until then but would recommend that a Co-Chair be elected until then. Mr. Ohlson nominated Mr. Lutjen as Co-Chair and Mrs. Downs seconded. Mr. Lutjen accepted the nomination. A Vice-Chair election will be held in the fall.

Turtle Crossing Signs - The Commission would like to thank the person who put up the Turtle Crossing signs again this year on East Madison Road.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The November 5, 2020 minutes were reviewed and amended. Mr. Lord made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as amended: Mr. Lutjen seconded. All Approved

SELECTMEN'S REPORT:

Mr. Lord reported several items:

- a. The MCC annual warrant article for \$5,000 (Conservation CRF) and the MCC budget were unanimously approved by both the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Budget Committee – a first in a decade. This was principally because of the MCC's unanimous agreement to financially support: 1) dam & boat ramp repair, 2) milling of Winter Road trees into lumber, 3) refurbishment of the WWI veteran's memorial, and 4) purchase of brine liquid spray system. This use of a small amount of accumulated conservation dollars, when joined/applied against MCC and Town efforts for conservation priorities, was pivotal for the approval by those Committees.
- b. The Barclay property donation-acknowledgement sign was installed by DPW last fall and has survived the first snow plowing year.
- c. As requested, USDA NRCS was contacted to determine if municipalities are eligible for funding under the Conservation Stewardship Program – and they are not. However, the MCC will use the tenants of the program, as described by Lord in previous meeting, to

assist in future conservation initiatives. Mr. Nels Liljedahl, NRCS District Conservationist, was extremely pleased with this MCC decision.

- d. UNH will be conducting a pine beetle study this year on its Madison property along Rt 41 near the Ossipee pine barrens. They will share this data with MCC and Town Forester.
- e. Mr. Tim Nolin, FLI, Madison Town Forester, was written up in the *Northern Woodlands* magazine, in a very positive article on him and forest management.
- f. At MCC request, DPW evaluated the use of a liquid brine dispensing system, versus hard salt, for winter treatment of road surfaces. The liquid system could reduce Madison's salt use by 66%. The tank system costs about \$10,000 and will be purchased by DPW. There was unanimous approval of Chairman McKenna's suggestion to provide MCC financial support for this purchase. This system will computerize flow onto the road, track the volume of brine distributed, and significantly reduce any amounts of salt introduced into our watershed and subsequent run-off into Silver Lake and Madison estuaries. Another great, combined Town-MCC initiative.
- g. MCC has been well represented in the Winter and Spring GMCG newsletter, *The Watershed News*. Recent articles were on WWI veteran's memorial tree milling and use of the NRCS CSP program. MCC recommended Lord submit the Madison purchase of the brine liquid spraying system for the next edition.
- h. Road drainage across from the Silver Lake US Post Office has been re-evaluated and re-engineered to add a settling pit to better reduce road run-off into Silver Lake. DPW and NH DOT have been in contact on when and how to fix this problem. DOT has costed this effort and is looking to add this project into their work schedule.
- i. Significantly increased recycling costs recently had caused much of the Madison waste to go to landfills, as opposed to being recycled. The Transfer Station is again now recycling/selling aluminum, corrugated cardboard, and metal. There are future plans to recycle all paper and to purchase a grinder for yard waste, some concrete, and glass. This grinder will also extract metals from construction debris and a warrant article will be required for purchase. Additionally, Madison will compact plastic for more efficient transportation costs and looks to sell plastics to Eco-Maine when/if that market returns. DPW now has a truck to haul our containers to tipping points which will also reduce our trash costs. New signage is being prepared to better assist Transfer Station customers and an Attendant booth will be added at the entrance to assist customers and collect fees from visitors.
- j. Lord administered the Oath of Office to Noreen Downs as the newest MCC alternate voting member.
- k. Lord thanked Chairman McKenna and Recording Secretary King for their long participation, leadership, and contributions to Madison during their tenure. They will be missed.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Mr. Ohlson reported that the Planning Board had their second meeting this year. There were 3 Boundary Lot Adjustments and a 2-Lot Subdivision which was continued. He also reported that he attended the recent ZBA meeting. There were several cases that were requesting relief from the wetland setbacks requirement and he thought it would be good for the Conservation Commission to give input to the ZBA prior to the hearings. Mrs. King stated that other Towns request the Conservation's input and if the Commission agrees, she will forward any cases asking for wetland relief prior to the Hearing date. The ZBA meets 2 weeks after the Conservation Commission so the timing is perfect. All agreed to have a review of upcoming ZBA cases on the Conservation agenda.

ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE: Mrs. King announced that she will be retiring at the end of June and hopefully her new replacement will be at the June 3 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. McKenna made a **Motion** to adjourn; Mr. Lord seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Submitted by:
Colleen King
Land Use Administrator

These minutes were APPROVED at the June 3, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting.

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