

## Bolton Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes 10/17/16

Members present: Amy Ludwin, Steve McLeod, Ali Kosiba, Gerard Mullen, Virginia Haviland

Guest: Brian Mezitt

1. Review, and Additions, Minutes of the Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Minutes Approved with Steve abstains from vote so as to give him more time to review them.
2. Additions to the agenda: Site Visit Thursday from F&W to PPCA.
3. Public comments: none
4. Conflict of interest? None named.
5. Budget update, t regarding the past rails grant, info:
  - a. About \$44 left in budget – Use for PPCA new signs? Ali will talk to Quinn about cost of new wooden signs.
  - b. Dog leash signs? No decision yet from the board, so perhaps a suggestion sign for now ? A“notice” stating hunting seasons & suggesting leashing of dogs.
  - c. Trails grant? No news.
  - d. Trail work: many areas need water bars at PP – some need repair, some new ones are needed. Libby’s Look – much more work needed here; a re-route is required, Ali is scouting options and will propose a plan.
  - e. Grants – Ali will work with Virginia, and Jerry to write grants for reroute of Libby’s trail and waterbars.
  - f. Ali to investigate cost of hiring VYCC for trail work...this will provide estimate for current work load/\$ amount of grants required

New Agenda Item: Site visit Thursday 10/20/16 PPCA w F&W

- g. Discussion of where to meet, considering visiting many areas of ponds and wetlands within a mile or so of Preston Pond
  - h. Lewis Porter(Commissioner) and Chris Bernier are going to be visiting from F&W
  - i. Jen DG can only spend about 45 minutes, so suggestion is to start at Preston Pond/upper pond area
  - j. Jerry suggests starting at his house: 3488 Stage Rd. all agree this makes sense. Amy will let people know about that plan.
  - k. On behalf the CC Amy has requested a written report from F&W after site visit, to present to SB, and for the CC too.
6. PPMP proposed plan updates/wording review. Winter parking?
  - a. Update from Amy, Jen wanted us to know, she is not sure when SB will vote on approval of the Plan. The SB has many other things on their agenda, so it’s just a matter of timing and when they can make an opening to do so. Our own goals: CC plans to wrap it up as soon as possible. Most recent copy was distributed by Ali via email for our current review and wrap up. Details on that to attend to as follow:
    - b. P1: date change
    - c. P4: Add form from F&W “Courtesy Permission Card” from F&W website?
      - i. Some discussion on this, Steve: is it necessary?

- ii. It does have different info from the Town of Bolton permit request, could be useful
    - iii. Perhaps include it for reference: decision to do so to include both as they are not the same items.
  - d. P5: spell out what CRAG stands for
  - e. P6: Delete sentence #2 – redundant; potentially add biking to section II a. secondary purposes
  - f. P7: add above 1.3: “Shall be subservient to two primary purposes...”Ali has edit
  - g. P9: Streeter right of way: Mention this here “see appendix”; add “and/or” to wildlife lists
  - h. Throughout document: use “ Notch rd.” rather than Bolton Notch Rd.
  - i. Section 3.2.2: Update to state what is possible/realistic, reduce underline/bolded areas...Virginia to review and submit updates to Ali for checking; birds, line 4: add “diverse” to forest
  - j. Section 4.1 Paragraph 3: add “diverse” to forest MGT. practices; Mature forest condition in “some” areas
  - k. Section 5.1 Unrestricted Uses – noted that some are actually restricted in some way...suggestions to separate list into “Restricted Uses” i.e. dogs...”Seasonal Uses” i.e. Ski, snowshoe, biking
  - l. Section 5.4: Wording change to have it stated that SB makes decision w/consideration of the CC – Ali has wording
  - m. Section 5.7.1: Add link ??
  - n. Section 6.1 Delete ref to CESU, allow all educational groups - remove limitations in general
  - o. Steve M. wants it to be known that he is in opposition to trapping sections, and the restrictions of trapping in the MP, so that the SB is aware of his position in opposition to the other members of the CC.
7. Biking at PPCA – Brian Mezitt
- a. Brian presents email from Jay Burritt – president of Richmond Ruff Riders Snowmobile Club – “has no issue with the use of bikes on the trails” between Notch and Stage Rd. which leaves permission for bikes up to the land owners.
  - b. Land owners are Andrew Churchill and Town of Bolton
  - c. Brian presents email from Andrew Churchill “I will consider an annual license for mountain bike access to the PPCA through my property along the VAST trail concurrent with the annual VAST trail agreement”
  - d. Proposal from Brain ,CC to remove “mountain bikes” from PPMP section 5.6 Prohibited Uses , Cara from VLT says that this would be permitted under the easement, bike use only on the VAST trail.
  - e. Porposal , CC to update wording to add bikes to section “Seasonal Uses”: permitted on VAST trail only, after mud season only, up until the Friday before the last weekend of September in deference to small game hunting season which starts the last weekend of September. Exact wording discussed: “ Bicycle use permitted only on PPCA VAST trails. If damage to the natural integrity of the area is shown due to bicycle use, and

there becomes a clear ecological reason, due to degradation of the VAST trail or otherwise, the SB, or the CC ,may choose to manage or restrict their use in the area.”

- f. Brian to contact Andrew Churchill – To obtain in writing: a one year agreement for bicycle use on this portion of the Bolton VAST Trail. Suggested that Brian look at VAST wording in the document that Churchill now uses to give VAST trail use permission on this land, perhaps some of that language could be borrowed? Or reworded to apply to bikes? Brian will seek to get a copy of the VAST permission form to review. We need to maintain this each year, & add to the Plan in the timeline of tasks, & give time to allow for annual renewal of permission for this purpose. – Add a copy of this agreement form to the PPMP appendix
  - g. Discussion of new signage for PP trails, to be discussed further, need for ones that addresses :bike use will be permitted only on the VAST trail.
  - h. Permitting of bikes to be re-evaluated after a year or so; We need to know, see: does more damage occur on trails? Or are bikes having an impact in other ways that need addressing?
8. New Members – Brian Mezitt to request appointment to CC soon. Gary Urban has expressed interest.
  9. Next meeting is 12/5/16.
  10. Review of communications / mail
    - a. VT wetlands/VT land trust/VTseedlings – grant info.
  11. Meeting adjourned about 9:00 pm