NEWTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ConCom Minutes for March 9, 2022

Present: Chairperson Alicia Geilen, Vice Chair Nancy Slombo, Members: Sandy Estabrook

* **Call to Order at 7:15 pm.** Technical difficulties did not allow the meeting to be on Zoom.
* **Correspondence** (none)
* **Business:**
* Request for Cutting on a Scenic Road (Gale Village Road)

Geilen noted that Secretary Trisha McCarthy has advertised for a public hearing is set for March 17, 2022.

* Soil Being put on Wetlands at 12 Brenner Rd

Geilen stated that the Building Inspector wetlands had been filled at this address. Geilen will ask McCarthy to inform NH Department of Environmental Services, and send photos she (McCarthy) had taken.

* Burning brush on Conservation Land

Geilen and Estabrook discussed the site visit to Conservation land behind Town Hall, to look at vegetation cutting, burning said vegetation, and creating a road across our property and a private piece of property for someone to access a landlocked property. Slombo suggested selling the landlocked owner a right of way for $100,000, and use the money to protect additional land.

* Earth Day activities

Recreation Commission will be doing a cleanup event at Greenie Park for Earth Day. It was agreed that we’d publish the event details on our website, and two members said they’d attend to help out.

The Commission discussed whether we’d do an event as well. It was decided that we would not, but Geilen asked if we should try to get something published in the Carriage Town News that’s she’d previously prepared on 25 things you can do for a more sustainable NH. Everyone agreed this was a good idea, and that we could put it on our website as well. Geilen will share the list with the Rec Commission, for them to hand out at their Earth Day even if they chose. Geilen will see about sharing it with Memorial School teachers as well.

* North Main Street (Fitzgerald Property)

Slombo noted that there were no erosion controls at this construction site. Erosion controls were required by Planning Board, after Conservation Commission comments. Geilen will ask McCarthy to send a letter to Mr. Fitzgerald.

* Update on Busch Farm

Geilen updated the Commission. She will take photos of damage to wetlands and trail from OHRVs.

1. Goals for 2022
2. Install sign of rules, already purchased
3. Hire contractor to regrade Loop Trail as needed. Maybe install bog bridges in wetter areas?
4. Hire contractor to repair culvert on Loop Trail
5. Hire contractor to place boulders at illegal trails going into wetlands and other authorized trails into sensitive areas.
6. Hire contractor to manage invasive plants (Japanese knotweed in parking lot, and autumn olive in field). Possibly use cut autumn olive as a hedgerow to keep people on the main loop trail/out of sensitive areas, IF it won’t spread the plant.
7. Add signs on Loop Trail to clearly mark it
8. Make a trail map and post on website
9. Possibly have an event to celebrate the work we pan to do in the fall (geocaching, kite flying, etc.)
10. Finalize letter to neighbors. One typo was found, otherwise the Commission said it looked good.
11. Finalize article for paper. Commission said it looked good.
12. Geilen offered to write letter to Road Agent, Mike Pivero, listing all work we need done.
13. Volunteer work sources: Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; Company Volunteer Day; people who volunteer after reading the Busch Farm article.
* **Reappointment of Trisha McCarthy**. It was moved by Estabrook and seconded by Slombo. The motion passed unanimously.
* Motion to adjourned by Geilen and seconded by Estabrook. The motion passed unanimously at 8:07 pm.