

Minutes of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission February 16, 2023

The meeting started at 4:45PM.

In attendance: Chris Ellms, Charlie Wolcott, Claire Von Karls, Judy and Larry Sawyer.

Guests were William 'Red' McCarthy, Franconia Conservation Commission and Sugar Hill Town Engineer and Chris Nicodemus Franconia Conservation Commission.

Meeting started with CHRIS ELLMS showing the attendees how to use the town tax maps.

JUDY made a motion to accept the January minutes and CLAIRE seconded the motion. All approved.

Had a quick discussion about adding an extra hand rail to the Coffin Pond Bridge. We voted unanimously to add the rail. LARRY will get the supplies needed.

We decided to hold off discussing our Commission's Mission Statement until we have everyone in attendance.

CLAIRE asked what was to be done about the turtles once the state starts construction on the Bowen Brook culvert crossing Route 117 near the intersection with Bickford Hill Road. CLAIRE volunteered to get the state's project engineer's name from JENNIFER and contact him to convey our concerns with protecting the turtles and hopefully their nesting area.

RED MCCARTHY updated the Commission on the property at Lafayette Road, Sugar Hill, Tax Map 221 Lot 7. NHDES has issued a Letter of Deficiency to the owners, Jeffrey and Jennifer Sabados. They have a piece of land in Sugar Hill that is accessed via a ROW over the Lang property which is located in Franconia.

Site work done on the property has damaged/affected approximately 3 acres of the Lang property located in Franconia. The DES Letter of Deficiency notes this damage caused by redirection of the preexisting drainage path.

A survey was made by Horizons Engineering showing the extent of the drainage changes and resultant sediment flow onto the Franconia property. Personnel from Headwaters Consulting have done lab analysis of heavy metals, including cadmium and lead in the sediment flow and have recorded impacts of sediment deposition on the wetlands and vegetation on Lang's property.

Mr. Sabados constructed a driveway into his property through the ROW. Construction also included major land clearing and alteration of drainage patterns on the Sabados property and the ROW on Lang's property. MR. MCCARTHY states he is not aware of any construction plan for this work.

MR. MCCARTHY believes it is critical that Sugar Hill and Franconia coordinate a review of the Alteration of Terrain Permit that is required by DES'S Letter of Deficiency. An ATP should include sediment and erosion control features on any development to insure there are no impacts to adjacent water and lands. The Letter of Deficiency is very firm in requiring a temporary stabilization plan be provided by February 27, 2023. MR. MCCARTHY will be requesting that DES allows participation by both towns in the review process.

At this time the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission will wait for further developments from MR. MCCARTHY.

CHRIS NICODEMUS gave us an update on the Plymouth State University Environmental Science Project. We are awaiting the "Project Scope Document " from the team. The document should include elements related to Water Resources and Wildlife Corridor prioritization for the three town region. Considering having the team visit and present a report to the three Commissions and invite the public between mid April and mid May.

CHRIS then led a discussion on the difficulty of keeping the integrity of core trails that link the three towns. We discussed the difficulties faced by organizations trying to acquire easements on important properties when linking trails. We also discussed a model where the Conservation Commissions would serve as the counter party to landowners in each town for Memorandum of Understanding that have terms and conditions consistent with funding requirements and provides formality to the core non-motorized trail network. This will be a work in progress.

LARRY made a motion to adjourn at 6:20PM and CHRIS seconded the motion. All approved.

Next meeting is March 16, 2023.

Minutes recorded by Larry Sawyer.