

## **Minutes of the Peterborough Conservation Commission Meeting February 20, 2020, Peterborough Town House, 6 p.m.**

Present: Jo Anne Carr, John Kerrick, John Patterson, Francie Von Mertens: Tyler Ward, Select Board liaison

Guests: Linsey Edmunds, Peter Harrison, Charlie Hough

### **Trails Stewardship**

The Conservation Commission presented Peter Harrison with a framed photo of the Fremont Field conservation land trail with an inscription of gratitude for his tireless tending of that trail, the Evans Flats Trail, Wheeler Trail, Cranberry Meadow Pond Trail, these in addition to trails work he does with the Harris Center and others.

### **Introductions**

Charlie Hough, abutter to the Cranberry Meadow trail and owner with his wife of future B&B/Inn, Cranberry Meadow Farm (aka the former Gregg house). He has signed up for the upcoming Coverts training, an in-depth workshop on all things conservation in NH.

Linsey Edmunds, former Environmental Ed teacher, leader of Student Conservation Assoc. trail crews; recent MS Environmental Studies degree. (Background learned from a follow-up email.)

Charlie has interest in joining ConCom. Discussion of his offer to fund a Contoocook River put-in from the new parking area followed. Matt Lundsted reported on his conversation months back with Rodney Bartlett about the riprap area near the confluence would have the least shoreline impact for a canoe/kayak put-in, with a broad stairway design rather than a dock subject to ice and fluctuating water levels.

Matt, as chair of the local Rivers Advisory Committee, supported an access point in the downtown area.

Charlie also mentioned the Cranberry Meadow Pond Trail and maintenance, citing old boardwalk debris left at trailside. As the trail crosses his land and provides hiking for his guests, maintenance is a priority. He has walked the trail with steward Swift Corwin and discussed same.

### **Burke Road Field**

Francie Von Mertens relayed Swift Corwin's suggestion that the ConCom hire Sturdy Thomas and his mini-brontosaurus to chew up all the woody growth (mostly invasive autumn olive) on about one-third of the Burke Road field, thereby making it mowable. A large section has goldenrod that is successfully suppressing growth (allelopathy at work) and keeping pollinators busy.

Jo Anne Carr asked if mowing would be late season, to benefit pollinators, and Von Mertens said likely so. A neighbor, Paul Sullivan, is working on a mower with his son with intentions to do the mowing. This after hearing that neighbors of the Fernald Field pay for that mowing.

Carr made the following motion (Von Mertens second):

**Move to hire Sturdy Thomas to prepare Burke Road field for annual late-season mowing, that work likely to cost approximately \$1,000."**

The motion passed.

### **Von Mertens semi-retirement**

Von Mertens said she would be stepping aside at the end of the year as primary chair after a couple decades in that role. She agreed to bring a job description of sorts to the next meeting.

### **Other**

Members discussed make-up of the ConCom, full complement with alternates included. There was general consensus not to expand the commission at this time but to welcome volunteers especially for workgangs and specific ConCom projects.

/fvm