

Sharon Conservation Commission
January 23, 2023

Minutes

On January 23, 2023, a regular meeting of the Sharon Conservation Commission was held at the Sharon Meetinghouse on Route 123 in Sharon, New Hampshire at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Anne Fischer, Anne Booth, Beth Fernald, Belinda Backstrom, and Ian Coles.

Minutes

Accepted the December minutes.

Financial

Conservation Commission Fund balances as of 1/31/2023:

Conservation Fund:	Interest	\$116.42	Balance	\$ 138,252.88
Town Forest Fund:	Interest	\$ 85.69	Balance	\$ 101,759.50

Beavers

The beaver diversion fence just upstream of the Mill Road Bridge is still working – both bridge culverts are clear.

Town Forest

Further discussion of the unsolicited trail marking and “maintenance” that has been done. Per RSA 41:11 the Selectboard can agree to rules for Town owned land. Anne F. therefore brought this matter to the attention of the Selectboard at their February 6, 2024 meeting. With the Board’s agreement the Cons Com plans to change the relevant language on the website and have new Town Forest signs made. The current signs read *“Fires and motorized vehicles strictly prohibited. Violators will be prosecuted pursuant to R.S.A. 41:11 by order of the selectmen.”* We plan to add a prohibition on trail marking and trail cutting. Anne B. has not yet heard back from the NH Municipal Association about whether we can also add a prohibition on trapping. She will contact them again.

Once the rules of the forest are confirmed, we will ask Deb to send an email to the town list stating that the Cons Com’s Town Forest trail work is nearly complete and noting the Town Forest rules under RSA 41:11.

Trail work

The trail work has been completed on all trails, except Meadow Brook from the Sharon Arts Center to Big Tree. We discussed having additional trail signs made. Ken Callahan has said that Rick Lusky will make them for us. The signs needed:
Meadow Brook Trail 2 miles to Rt. 123 (2 of these)
Meadow Brook Trail 2 miles to Sullivan Loop
Big Tree Trail 1 mile

Big Tree Trail 1 mile to Jarmany Hill

Sign ordinance

There was discussion about the number of signs (and the large size of one sign) at the entrance to the Nature Conservancy's Wales Preserve. The Town has a sign ordinance, but do multiple signs add up in square inches/feet? Should we ask the Nature Conservancy to limit signs? Anne F. will mention this to the Selectboard.

Intent to Cut

Anne B. told us that the Selectboard has agreed to provide the Conservation Commission with copies of each Intent to Cut that is filed.

Conservation Easements

We decided to ask a representative from Monadnock Conservancy to meet with us to discuss the conservation easement process. Anne B. will call.

Previously, we discussed drafting a friendly letter to some landowners and including a map showing existing CEs in Sharon. The letter would suggest dedicating the easement to a landowner as has been done in Sharon.

Moosewood Ecological LLC.

Updated contract was signed by Anne and Anne and returned to Moosewood after Jeff Littleton incorporated all of our suggested changes into the contract language (email to Anne and Anne 12/4/2023). Jeff also wrote "We look forward to project planning in the new year."

Trail Cameras

Nothing new.

Bonsal Property – South Road (Map 7 Lot 8 – 125 acres; Map3 Lot 46 – 46 acres)

Nothing new.

Gridley River Water Testing

Determine whether Shane is still interested in doing this. If so, he would need to contact Selinda directly.

**Next regular meeting will be held at the Sharon Meeting House
Route 123 Sharon, New Hampshire at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 02/22/2024.**