

Minutes

Lebanon Conservation Commission

June 17, 2021

6:30 PM

Mary Sawyer Library

In attendance: Ruth Gutman, John Bozak, Dan Blanchette, Jerry Lanoie, Don Leuchs, Matt Leggitt, Sanford ATV club; Ben/Kate Beckley, local residents; Debra Chase: Three Rivers and Milton Three Ponds volunteer

1. This is the first in person meeting of the Leb CC for over a year. Conducting the meetings over Zoom was successful and Don expressed an interest in continuing a hybrid meeting format so that those who cannot attend in person meetings can tune in. Many thanks to Ruth for setting up the meetings.

Secretary's Report

2. Minutes of the May CC minutes were reviewed and passed. Ruth asked that there be a revolving secretary to take notes and prepare minutes to help her out. Don volunteered (and hopes he doesn't do that good a job and be asked to do it permanently)

Old Business

3. John reported on results of the town election on initiatives that the CC had expressed support. Number 11 approving funding for land use departments and boards was approved. Number 39 which called for the replacement of exterior town lights to LEDs received overwhelming support. There was a short discussion of the new bridge replacement vote as general interest, for which the CC had not expressed any opinion ahead of the vote.

4. Don reported on the Nesbitt Pond management plan recommendations. There was consensus among members that we would follow this plan, pass it along to the Planning Board that has joint management responsibilities, and inform the Select People at a future meeting.

We noted work already done by Elijah Tetreault on the board walk, parking lot, and kiosk.

Debbie Chase suggested that even here at this little pond we put up a sign warning of invasive species.

We discussed having the State re stock the pond with fish. Dan said if we petitioned them to make it a 'Kids Only Pond' that the restocking would be free. Otherwise the town would have to pay for it over a number of years. Dan said he would look further into it with IF &W.

New Business

5. Elijah Tetreault will be inducted into the Eagle Scout Court of Honor on July 10. Several members expressed interest in going. Contact John for location and time information.

6. Jerry reported on visits to inventory Town owned properties. He mentioned an app on his phone that had aerial and parcel data and maps to make it easier to find the parcels. He reported on several pieces of land along Bog Brook on the south side of Rt 202. Don made the suggestion that we return to the Spaulding properties along the Salmon Falls River. Several members visited the property last fall and it may be time for another visit.

7. John reported that we are still able to have one additional board member on the CC and that we should try to fill that slot. He also mentioned that he wants to give up being the Chair of the CC at the end of his current term next year.

Other Business

8. Ben reported that the Emerald Ash Borer is now quite prevalent here in Lebanon.

9. Matt Legitt, who represents the Sanford ATV club, reported that like snowmobile clubs, ATV clubs receive funding from the State from registrations for trail development, maintenance, landowner relations, and solving problems caused by ATV use. At issue is the restrictions on Hebo Hybo road for ATVs.

The restrictions are two fold. First the opening around the gate on the road is not wide enough to allow side by side ATVs to pass. That gate is now locked so wider ATVs to pass. Emergency or fire vehicles would have to break down the gate to access the property from this end.

Second an abutting landowner has blocked access across land under the power lines owned by CMP. The land owner has repeatedly complained about vehicles crossing and damaging his land and fields. There are also noise and garbage issues that have come up as well.

While members of the CC pointed out a letter from the Town attorney indicating that the public basically has unrestricted access to the road, Matt said he had seen the letter and was still not convinced that ATVs were included in that easement. He said that he will do more research on the issue and report back to us at our next meeting. He is hoping to get support from the CC in opening up better access to the road.

A motion to end the meeting passed.

Next meeting Thursday July 15 at 6:30