Minutes of the Hancock Conservation Commission – November 12, 2019

Members Present: Phil Brown (Chair), Jack McWhorter, J.P. Bernier, Roberta LaPlante, Ellena Weston, John Jordan, Select Board

Others Present: Sigmund Winiecki, his grandfather, and Eric Masterson

7:05 P.M.: Phil Brown called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: October 8, 2019 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Elmwood Junction Project Presentation: Sigmund Winiecki along with Eric Masterson of the Harris Center presented the commission with an update on the Elmwood Junction project that Mr. Winiecki has undertaken as his Eagle Scout project. The commission has been completely supportive and enthusiastic about the extensive work that has been undertaken by Sigmund and the other volunteers. As part of his presentation on the progress of the project, Mr. Winiecki requested a donation of $1,150 from the commission to go towards the permanent markers at the site. The commission thanked Mr. Winiecki and Mr. Masterson for the update and then discussed the request for funds. It was determined that the commission was in support of funding the project as it is directly related to the mission and work of the commission.

Motion: LaPlante made the motion to; provide up to $1,000 in Conservation Funds to support the Elmwood Junction Project. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Conservation Easement Monitoring: The commission decided the Harris Center will monitor the Town’s Conservation Easements as budgeted for in 2019. Brown will request that the commission be informed of the times and dates of monitoring in case commission members want to observe.

Forestry Contract: Brown and the commission asked Selectboard member Jordan for direction on expenditure of budgeted funds for a forestry contract with Forester, Jeremy Turner. The commission asked Brown to contact Turner and work out the details of such contract initially focusing on a Forestry Management Plan specifically for the Walcott and Prospect Hill Properties. Additionally, the commission discussed the Juggernaut Pond parcel and if there’s a relationship to the Thatcher Forest parcel under the management of the Trustees of Trust Funds.

Trail Maintenance discussion: McWhorter shared with the commission the interest of townspeople who are interested in and wanting to be a part of a Trail Maintenance program in Hancock. The commission discussed forming a sub-committee of the conservation commission. The commission also discussed the
liability of volunteers on town property doing trail maintenance. Weston agreed to research the subject and report back to the commission on her findings.

**Review of mail and other business**

**Adjourn:** 8:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** December 10, 7:00 p.m.