Minutes of the Hancock Conservation Commission – December 10, 2019

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

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

Approval of Minutes: November 12, 2019 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Change in Commission: Ellena Weston informed the commission she was resigning from the Planning Board as well as the Planning Board representative to the Conservation Commission. Weston has served on the town’s planning board for 12 years. The commission thanked Weston for her commitment and dedication to the town.

Elmwood Junction Project Funding Update: The Conservation Fund has a balance of $6,044.93. The Commission voted in November to contribute the amount of $1,000 toward the Elmwood Junction project.

Conservation Easement Monitoring: No updates to report since our November meeting.

Forestry Contract: Brown presented the commission with the Forestry Services Agreement between the Town of Hancock and Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd.

Motion:
To approve and amend the Forestry Services Agreement to adjust the total fees paid to $5,000 and to revise the completion of work by December 31, 2020. Additionally, the scope of work will include a full forest management plan on the Walcott property and a preliminary forest assessment report on the Prospect Hill property. Bernier made the motion, seconded by McWhorter; all in favor, motion approved.

Trail Maintenance: Weston provided the commission with a summary of an article she researched on the topic of volunteers and liability as it pertains to trail maintenance for the commission’s purpose.
Weston’s summary –

Basically, the two key points are

1. We need to have a record of who any volunteers are before they do any work.
2. We need to have something in writing to give to volunteers which defines the scope of their activities.
**Kepner Meadow Bridge:** Brown received a request from S. Spikol asking for the Commission’s help in repairing the bridge on the Kepner Meadow property. The bridge is in disrepair and could be a good path for the elementary school children. The commission was in favor of helping the school’s volunteers and that the Conval School District has trust fund monies available to assist with the cost.

**Review of Mail:** Intent to cut

**Adjourn:** 8:10 p.m.

**Review of mail and other business**

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

**Next Meeting:** TBD