**TILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**September 21, 2015**

 **MINUTES**

Members present: Chuck Mitchell, chair; Jim Cropsey; Bob Hardy; Helen Hanks; Paul Rushlow; Jon Scanlon; Ben Wadleigh; and Kathi Mitchell

Guests: Students and staff from the Natural Resources class at Winnisquam Regional School District

**Meeting was called to order by the chair at 7:00 p.m.**

1. **Winnisquam Regional School District Natural Resources class:** After members of the commission introduced themselves, the spokesman for the class, Jared Partridge, explained about their interest in developing a nine-hole disc golf course on or near conservation land at the school. There was a discussion about maintenance and the chair suggested that a schedule of maintenance would be a good idea. Helen reminded the students that the SAU should be a part of making sure that trash is not an issue. Jon suggested working on the concept of “carry in, carry out”. Helen expressed her support for the project. Ben asked if the disc golf would be just for Tilton students. Other members spoke about this being public property. There is a possibility that there could be tournaments with other schools, but for now it would be primarily for members of this school. The easement is clear that there will be no wood chipping or use of mechanical equipment. There is a question about the location of the various holes and posts in relation to the wetlands. It was decided that the class will map where the stakes for all nine holes will be located, and pictures will be provided. Then the Conservation Commission will schedule a site walk. There was a question about liability and the students explained that it would be a “play at your own risk” site. Jon said that Merrimack has done something similar and that it might be a good idea for the students to research that online. The chair thanked the class for coming to the meeting.
2. **Minutes:** Jim Cropsey made a motion to accept, and Ben Wadleigh seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.
3. **Update on Ernie’s and Salmon Run:** There was a discussion of recent concerns by the abutter which will be handled by WRTA. The planting beds are filled with soil and ready to be planted. There is concern about potential run-off problems which may still exist. Concern about the four-foot diameter culvert which will need a grate on both sides for safety issues. WRTA will maintain the grate. There is a bit of a problem as WRTA waits for the audit. The trailer has to remain onsite with phone and Internet connectivity but Belknap Landscaping needs to access the area where the trailer is located.
There have been some comments about the length of the grasses on Salmon Run. The wildflowers have to drop seeds before there can be any mowing. Chuck will put up the signs that he was given regarding the wildflowers.

Discussion continued about clearing some of the invasive species along the river bank. NH DOT has the equipment to clear brush. Helen contacted Katherine Dawson to see what she could do to assist the commission in this matter. She will check on it.

1. **Jim Cropsey and the Mill:** Jim wants to do some maintenance and assessment during the draw-down of the Winnipesaukee River in October so he has an expedited application for NH DES. The Commission discussed the matter and Helen made a motion to approve the application and Paul seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Correspondence:** Evans Expressmart
 Shalimar application – more information requested by NH DES
3. **Eagle Creek:** Chuck was contacted regarding a fish ladderrequest for Lochmere Dam. They will be in touch with the Commission at a later date.
4. **Scott Davis** spoke to Chuck about the Tilton School pond to be used for fishing in the summer and skating in the winter. Bob said that town-owned ponds can be designated as kids-only fishing.
5. **NHACC**: Jim made a motion to approve payment to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. Bob seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
6. **Casella:** The company has had exceedences which the EPA has requested be addressed. CODs (chemical oxygen demand) are a concern, but they were not even mentioned at the public hearing, so Tilton has filed a lawsuit. There is a real need to know how to deal with CODs. The transfer station pad is supposed to have a drain, but Casella never put one in. The Belmont boards only used a 50-year flood requirement.
7. **Updating the TCC checklist:** Helen made a motion and Ben seconded the motion to modify the phrase fifty years to one hundred years. It was approved unanimously. The checklist will be reviewed in its entirety at the next meeting.
8. **High Street:** Creosote timbers are being placed next to the river bank. It is not an accepted practice, but the code enforcement officer would have to deal with the issue.
9. **Milfoil Fund:** The Commissioners reiterated the policy of requiring a signed contract for work or paying after the work has been completed. The Commission also noted that they prefer to have a written report after completion of a project. Jon suggested that it would be prudent to amend the title to include milfoil and invasive species eradication. The Commissioners agreed. Jon will research and develop a warrant article for the March town meeting.
10. Motion to Adjourn was made and accepted at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Mitchell, Acting Secretary