

MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MARCH 5, 2013

MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 6:17 p.m. at the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Chairman Tim Tenhave presided:

Members of the Commission Present: Matt Caron, Vice Chairman
 Ron Davies
 Thomas Lehman (6:30 p.m.)
 Gage Perry (6:22 p.m.)
 Simon Thomson
 Eber Currier, Alternate

Members of the Commission Absent: Robert Croatti, Alternate Member
 Councilor Thomas Mahon

Also in Attendance:

Chairman Tenhave appointed Alternate member Currier to serve as a voting member.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

BUSINESS

1. Grater Woods Stewardship Plan Review Complete review of the current draft.

The Commission continued its review of the draft Stewardship Plan (Plan), and made the following additional amendments:

Picking up in the area of the additional information provided for Stand N (beginning on page 29), Chairman Tenhave suggested the language be made consistent with other stand descriptions. A reference could be included that would state "For additional detail refer to the Homestead Plan." Seeking additional clarification, Vice Chairman Caron questioned if an example of the intent would be for the only information to remain to be that listed under the sections of "Observation", "Wildlife", and "Forestry Plan". Chairman Tenhave stated that to be his desire. Vice Chairman Caron agreed with the approach, and noted the need for titles to be underlined and followed by a colon. Chairman Tenhave suggested the new information on pages 29 and 30 be removed. Vice Chairman Caron added the first line appearing on page 42 could remain as it is part of the "Forestry Plan" language for Stand U, but all information following that (schedule) could be removed.

Commissioner Lehman noted, in older stewardship plans, numbers were used to identify individual stands whereas this Plan utilizes letters. He questioned how the stands could be cross-referenced from one plan to another. Commissioner Perry suggested an addendum could be added to the Management Plan to include a cross reference. Commissioner Lehman questioned whether the map could be amended to identify the stands by numbers and letters.

It was the general consensus of the Commission to incorporate into the map a cross-reference table from the Grater Woods Homestead Plan.
Vice Chairman Caron noted the need to add a definition for silviculture.

Commissioner Lehman commented forestry plans were done over a vast timeframe and some of the observations no longer hold true, e.g., heron rookery. He suggested the year of the survey be noted in the observations to provide the historical reference/progression. Commissioner Lehman committed to researching and providing that information to Commissioner Perry within a week's time.

Page 41, Stand U, Forestry Plan; second sentence; replace the word "access" with the word "accessed" and in the second to last sentence replace "Stand 6" with "Stand T".

Page 43; include a space so that the section beginning with "Riparian and wetland areas" is the start of a new paragraph, delete the second and third sentences of that new paragraph, and amend the last sentence to read "The most notable terrain features associated with this property are the conglomeration of beaver ponds. These create a "bowl" toward which the rest of the property slopes.", and amend the last sentence to read "Grater Road forms a boundary, and is the height of land between two watersheds – everything north of the Grater Homestead parcel flows north into Baboosic Lake."

Page 44; underline the words "Management Objective" and add a colon. Remove the periods at the end of the last three bullet points. Incorporate the soils map into Section 3 (currently on pages 74, 75, and 76) and rotate placement so the top of the map is on the left-hand side of the page.

Page 45; remove the first sentence that begins with "Biological diversity can be described as", and remove the word "this" from the following sentence.

Add a definition for invasive species.

Page 45, 5th paragraph, first sentence; amend so that the first sentence reads "Presence of beaver ponds offers a habitat type that is not available on most New Hampshire woodlots.", remove the comma and the word "and", capitalize the word "Wildlife" as the start of a new sentence, and add an "s" to the word "increase".

Page 46; be consistent by underlining and adding colons after headings/titles such as "Major Ecosystems", "Wildlife Openings", etc. as well as by deleting periods that come at the end of bulleted items, e.g., the 5th bullet under Management Objectives on page 47.

When websites are referenced, such as under Sources on page 47, include links.

Include a definition for "ORV" inclusive of dimensions (from State website).

Page 48, Category A; add a space so that the sentence that begins "All users are permitted" is the start of a new paragraph.

Add a definition for OPDMD.

Pages 48 to 49; Category D, second paragraph; amend the first two sentences to read "Uses permitted include foot traffic, pedaled bikes, and dirt bikes. ORVs, ATVs, snowmobiles, and horses would not be permitted.

Page 49, Trail Descriptions; amend the website to read: "www.Merrimackoutdoors.org", and the title of the map by deleting the word "Town".

Page 50, Red Maple Trail; replace bullets with letters. Section 2 should read "Section 2 - Category B - Turns west of the PWD basin, generally following the northern property boundary." Delete the last two paragraphs.

Page 51, underline and unbold "Trail Guidelines" and add appropriate spacing after sub-titles.

Throughout the document, do not italicize defined words when part of a heading.

Section 6; underline and add a colon to the sub-titles.

Section 6, Past; add a space after the word “activities” so that the sentence beginning with the words “Some of these hosted” is the start of a new paragraph.

Top of page 54; replace “DPW” with “PWD”.

Page 56, Recommendations; replace, “MCC” with “Stewardship Team” in the sentence that reads “The MCC should”, and in the third bullet under that heading.

Section 7; underline and add a colon to names of access points. Page 57, first paragraph; separate, as individual paragraphs, the sentences identifying the meanings of Primary and Secondary, and delete the “Note” at the bottom of the page.

Page 58; remove the words “Figure 2”.

With regard to the Conservation Drive access point, Vice Chairman Caron commented the words “no parking” will have to be painted on the parking lot in front of the gate to accommodate emergency access. Chairman Tenhave noted Wildcat Falls Park has signs on the access road stating where parking is prohibited.

Amend the GIS maps to include data identifying the various access points, e.g., arrows.

Page 59, Under “Conservation Drive (Primary Access)”, #1; remove the words “main roads”, #2; delete in its entirety, #3; amend to read “Access for non-motorized users, motorized users and maintenance equipment.”, separate the sentence that reads “Central location and available room for parking and immediate access by emergency vehicles and equipment are key benefits to the further development of this priority access point.” to become its own numbered statement, and amend #4 to read; “Plans to address the steep slope and wet terrain are in process.”

Page 60, #3; remove the word “benefits:”, #5; remove the word “challenges:”, under “Recommendation” add an “s” to the word “offer”, and identify the map with the access point for Beebe Lane.

Page 61; replace the bullets with numbers, amend “Recommendations” so that it reads “Recommendation: Create an access to the Outdoor Education Center avoiding MSD property. Develop a new trail spur leading from the cul-de-sac on Madeline Bennett Way north on Old Blood Road. The parking area should be identified on the map.”

Commissioner Lehman reiterated his opinion there are some areas identified as “Recommendation:” which should be identified as “Assessment:”

Chairman Tenhave stated the desire to have a draft of the amended version of the Plan (without redlining) posted to the website far enough in advance of the meeting at which the Commission would vote for acceptance to allow for public review/comment. He questioned the will of the Commission with regard to scheduling a special meeting at which the Plan could be addressed, and perhaps cancelling the meeting currently scheduled for the 18th; thereby allowing enough time for corrections to be made, the document posted, etc.

The general consensus of the Commission was to move forward with the hope the amended plan could be placed on the website by Monday, March 11, 2013 and on the agenda for the Commission's April 1, 2013 meeting for additional discussion and acceptance.

Chairman Tenhave agreed to research whether or not the fund referred to on page 69 "The town voters overwhelmingly passed a warrant article designating this parcel as the GRATER WOODS FOREST under RSA 31:110. The voters also approved MCC management with any funds from forestry operations to be placed in a special fund to be used to maintain the parcel (RSA 31:112-113)" is a separate fund.

Page 70, Appendix A; either remove the word "boundaries" or treat it as a heading, e.g., underlined and followed by a colon.

Page 86, Appendix E, #1; amend to read: Minimum Required Infrastructure Projects Necessary to Support Future Land Use and Other Projects in this Appendix:" and add the following language to "e": "Red Maple Trail Rehabilitation and Conservation Drive Access Point".

Commissioner Perry was asked to provide additional detail explaining the projects.

Page 86, Appendix E, #3, first sentence; replace the word "rail" with the word "trail", #6; add the words "approved by the MCC" between the words "suggestions" and "as", and under #6, b; add the word "multiuse" before the word "trail".

Page 88; delete, in its entirety, the section entitled "Recommendations."

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Perry stated John Lastowka works in collaboration with the UNH Cooperative Extension to have a tree pruning workshop for Saturday, March 30th. Chairman Tenhave agreed to add the flyer to the website.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LEHMAN TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER THOMSON
MOTION CARRIED
7/0/0**

The March 5, 2013 special meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan