

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes 6/14/2022

Meeting called to order 6:00

Present: Chris Fithian (chair), Colleen Ryan (member), Steve Frackleton (member), Craig Billie (guest), Annette Libby, Bartlett Recreation/B.A.R.A. director (guest)

Annette updated the commission on the progress of the Morrell property projects:

- Currently, 7 acres has been developed, including the fitness trail and 62 community garden beds (in area mapped as wetland) with a dug well. Sugaring is in this area as well.
- Central soccer (multipurpose) field is the next area to be developed. Tree clearing will start this fall, but will likely take several years because Annette's family is doing the felling themselves. The plan is to cut as few trees as possible to create field. Permitting for field construction has not been completed. An endangered bat has been identified on property, which limits season when trees can be harvested.
- The plan for the eastern portion of the property has been changed. There will not be a second field. New plan has a rec center with kitchen closer to the road and tennis courts. Mountain bike trail will remain. Will try to preserve sugarbush in vicinity of little league field. Wetlands have been delineated for undeveloped portion of property, but no permits have been issued. Proceeds from the recent Attitash chairlift auction will cover permitting costs (+/- \$30K).
- The proposed timeline would see multipurpose field is completion within several years and groundwork for eastern portion of property completed within 5 years (groundwork alone will cost \$500K), and all funds are yet to be raised.
- Annette will send info on permitting process and continue updating the Conservation Commission. Burr Phillips is the engineer (Civil Solutions LLC).
- Commission had questions about how the intermittent stream that runs through the multipurpose field site would be dealt with. Annette said the plan is to put it into a culvert under the field.
- There was discussion about future connectivity to the MWV Rec. Path. It was noted that Jeremiah Beach with White Mountain NEMBA is looking into the feasibility of building a natural surface trail from JBS to the Morrell. With the vision of the trail being for it to be an intermediate step to the a fully built out Rec Path.

Action item: Chris will keep in touch with Annette and follow up on permitting process.

Old Dump

- Chris and Craig reported on their recent visit to the property of Laura Slitt in Bartlett Village to look at debris that has been washing into the river from the old dump site, but the dump site is now hard to access due to bank erosion. Commission agreed to organize a volunteer day to clean up the debris that is washing into the river (not the dump site itself) in late summer when water is low. Would need to be careful with hazardous debris and consider where the trash would be disposed of.

Action items: Chris will reach out to the landowner for permission to access the site. Steve will ask the selectmen about taking the trash to the dump and possibly using a town truck. Mike will contact some local groups that use the river to solicit volunteers.

Facebook Page

- Colleen has created a Facebook page for the ConComm but needs photos and content to post. The title is Bartlett, NH Conservation Commission or @BartlettConComm. She asked for members to share any conservation related photos, links, or content that would be of interest to the community.
- Suggestions for possible content included info about pesticide use near wells/ water bodies, content from cooperative extension, USVLT, SPNHF, and Bartlett Rec, and announcements about recreation activities like trail rides.
- Mike offered to help with finding and posting content.

Action items: Colleen and Mike will regularly update Facebook page.

Commission agreed that the July and August meetings will be at 6:30 instead of 6:00.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33.