

Meeting: Antrim Conservation Commission, August 28, 2019 at 530 pm at the Town Hall.

Attendees: Peter Beblowski '22', Linda Bryer '21', Jeremy DeLisle '20', Ron Cheetham '20' and Keith Wolsiefer '22' needs to get sworn in at TH..... Public: Eric Masterson of Harris Center and Janet McEwen & Virginia Dickenson

Absent: Frank Gorga '21' & Rod Zwirner-Member-at-Large

1. Draft June 2019 meeting notes were reviewed amended and accepted. No meeting held in July.
2. **Caughey Easement** discussion: Map 240, Lot 003, contains 58 +/- acres of land. It was purchased by George & Michelle Caughey from the Withington Estate heirs on February 25, 2009 (see Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds: Volume 9148, page 0551). Documents can be viewed on line through www.nhdeeds.com This easement by the Caughey's is to be by donation to the Harris Center for Conservation Education (HCCE). The property has nearly 2,000 feet of shoreline frontage on the western shore of Gregg Lake and is not developed. It also has not been logged in 80 +/- years and possesses exceptional stands of white pine. Eric Masterson discussed other values of the property such as its standing in the NH Wildlife Action Plan, it being a valuable target area for conservation by the Antrim Open-Space Conservation Plan (2005) and the Antrim Master Plan (2010).

The Loon Protection Committee was contacted by the HCCE and provided the following personal communication via email; *"Our records of nesting on Gregg Lake are limited to sites in the coves at the northwest and southeast ends, all within the past 5 years. It's entirely possible that the landowner is correct about some nesting activity on the shoreline in question. A brief nest attempt that failed, or one that occurred farther in the past than the last five years, may have been overlooked in our monitoring. For your pitch, it's worth noting that the shoreline in question has some apparently suitable/very suitable potential nesting habitat (circled in red below), and that in general, protected shoreline benefits loons. Although some loon nests succeed in highly developed locations, in general there is a negative association between loon nesting and shoreline development and land use in New Hampshire (Kuhn et al. 2011)".*

It is our present understanding that the Caughey's favor an easement under which:

- They will retain the right to control access;
- Motorized vehicles will be prohibited;
- Mining will be prohibited;
- Subdivision will be prohibited;
- Forestry will be permitted under the supervision of a licensed forester and conducted under UNH Best Management Practices (BMPs) ; and
- The Harris Center will be granted the right to construct a trail.

Additional discussion was held regarding RSA Chapter 36A –Conservation Commissions (see attached) and RSA 79-A Current Use Change Tax (<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-V-79-A.htm>)

Some discussion also occurred regarding the HCCE's development of the SuperSanctuary and this property's proximity to the SuperSanctuary. Exhausting these topics Linda Bryer made a motion to vote to grant the requested \$5,000 by HCCE for the permanent stewardship of the Caughey Conservation Easement of Map 240, Lot 3. The motion was seconded by Ron Cheetham. The vote was 3 yes, 0 no. Voting were Linda Bryer, Ron Cheetham and Jeremy Delisle. Keith Wolsiefer did not vote because his term has lapsed and needs to be renewed. The chair does not vote. Chair only votes in case of a tie. The chair will respond to the HCCE and request a site visit & review of the final draft of the CE document prior to issuing grant monies.

3. Trails:

- a. **Campbell Pond** – Peter has gotten out to Campbell Pond & placed several signs prohibiting motorized vehicles (OHRV- Off Highway Recreational Vehicles). Still has to get out to top of Riley Mtn to place additional signs. Anyone interested for a long hike in the woods?

Also, Frank to contact Student Conservation Association (SCA) regarding trail building around pond & possible loop trail up Reilly Mtn. If too late for this year, then plan for early coordination with SCA for next year.
- b. **Meadow Marsh Trail** –The second bench looking towards Holt Hill has been installed. Any comments?
- c. **Lily Pond Trail** – Several days of work have been accomplished rehabbing the trail and building bridges. We need at least 1 more afternoon of work- How about Saturday August 31, at 9 to noon?
- d. **Hurlin Property** has some substantial trees that need cutting and brush needs mowing. Schedule in Fall and winter 2019.
- e. **Meetinghouse Hill Trail** to the Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery needs to be re-established. Peter has contacted Andrew Robblee re: new trail easement agreement. It is in the negotiation stage. Also, the commission has been contacted by the Antrim Historical Society about a joint hike to the center cemeteries during Home & Harvest (mid September) Date & Time: Sunday Sept 15 at 2 - 4pm meet at stone Church.

Town Pond issue: A local citizen has contacted the Con com & the Historical Society about the old town pound on Old Pound Rd. It is overgrown and needs some love and attention. Frank & Peter met with Bill Nichols about the Meetinghouse Hill Hike and also discussed this issue. Peter went out and reviewed the site. A small work crew from both groups should make quick work of it. Loading the trucks and taking slash & debris to the transfer station should take care of it and take the most time.

4. **Antrim 2020 Trail Group** of special note are work days for Hurlin Property cleanup this winter 2019.
 - a. Dates: tbd

5. Note Town Hall needs to be contacted about possible removal & proper disposal of several invasive species that have been established at and around several town properties. Town Hall: bittersweet & burningbush. Still needs to be arranged.....

6. **Gregg Lake Basin study** is moving forward nicely.

7. The first Gregg Lake Water Quality Advisory Committee meeting was July 12 and went well.

8. Additional outreach may involve becoming a **Soak-Up-the-Rain Group**
<https://www4.des.state.nh.us/SoakNH/> still pending additional information from NHDES.

9. **Contookook & North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee (CNBRLAC):** Rod says the new website is now available, <https://www.cnbrlac.org/> .

10. **Paddles & Hikes: Lily Pond Trail** work day August 31 @ 9 to noon

Willard Pond Paddle – Monday Sept 2 at 2pm

11. **Planning Board:** rewrite of the Master Plan put off to 2020. Met with Janet McEwen before the meeting. She is to email Peter additional information and meet later in Fall.

12. Intents to Cut- active

- 19-017-03T Lawrence, Map 214, Lot 5, Smith Road (10 of 12 acres cut)
- 19-017-04T Caughey, Map 235, Lot 3, Brimstone Corner Rd., (6 of 6.3 acres cut)
- 19-017-05T Caughey, Map 246, Lots 10& 11, Brimstone Corner Rd., (63 of 80 acres cut)
- 19-017-06T Salamy, Map 104, Lot16 Depot Street, (5 of 5 acres cut)
- 19-017-07T Brown, Map 220, Lot 33 Cemetery Rd. (14.4 of 14,4 acres cut)
- 19-017-08T Plourde & Cahoon, Map 246, Lot 12, Boutman Rd. (57 of 57 acres cut)
- 19-017-09T TWBW,LLC, Map 224, Lots 3&5, Salmon Brook Rd. (100 of 390 acres cut)
- 19-017-10T Monadnock Paper Mills, Map 244, Lots 14 & 21, High Street (5 of 70 acres cut)
- 19-017-11T Ivey Trust, Map 221, Lot 5, Reed Carr Rd. (28 of 30 acres cut)
- 19-017-12T Dow Trust, Map 211, Lots 6 & 29, Loverens Mill Rd. (37 of 41 acres cut)
- 19-017-13T Ellingwood, Map 237, Lot1, Salmon Brook Rd. (10 of 20 acres cut)
- 19-017-14T Longgood, Map 224, Lot 002, Salmon Brook Rd, (25 of 53 acres cut)

13. NHDES Wetland Permits:

August 5, 2019 DES issued a notice of insufficiency for permit by notification for forestry operations for Map 215, Lot 6 & Map 211, Lot 29 owned by Sally Dow Living Trust on Loverens Mill Rd.

- 14. Letter from Loon Preservation Committee to Town RE: controlled lake/pond levels and sensitivity to nesting loons.
- 15. **Workshops & meetings** – see separate pages
- 16. **Harris Center** <http://www.harriscenter.org/Programs/programs.htm>
- 17. **Monadnock Conservancy:** <http://www.monadnockconservancy.org>

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 530 pm in the Town Hall.