

***Deering Conservation Commission
762 Deering Center Road
Deering, New Hampshire 03244***

Minutes for 14 Jan 2019 Meeting

Attendance. Jon Stuart, Gary Samuels, Jackie Sawyer, Dennis Sawyer, Tim Finn

Also present: Glenn Clark, Al Maddox

Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Gary Samuels

Minutes. The minutes of the meeting of 8 Oct were accepted.

Correspondence. No correspondence was received.

Old Business.

Easement monitoring. All town held conservation easements were monitored for 2018.

Duck boxes. Owing to mild weather in December and so far in January, the pace of maintaining duck boxes has been slow. Samuels reported that he was unable to locate duck boxes supposedly present on Homestead Marsh. Dennis Sawyer has removed two boxes from the short of Tree Frog pond. He reported that the dam at the pond had burst, lowering the water level and rendering inaccessible two boxes that are affixed to trees in the middle of the pond. Samuels suggested that these boxes, which last year were the site of egg dumping, should replace those that were removed from their locations at the edge of the pond. Dennis said that he would personally visit each box this year, and made arrangements with other DCC members to do this. Dennis will replace missing boxes with newly constructed boxes.

Conservation camp. Jon Stuart will communicate with Hillsborough/Deering school in an effort to recruit children to apply for up to 5 grants in support of attendance at the UNH Barry 4-H Conservation camp in summer 2019. Samuels said that he had not yet had any interest on the part of Deering residents who have previously attended the camps.

Lake Hosts. Jon Stuart reported that last year's Lake Host manager Hannah Broas will return in 2019 and will take up the role of writing the grant and hiring new lake hosts in addition to day to day management. She will be paid a supplement, taken from funds allocated by BOS for the 'point person,' for her additional work. Glenn Clark discussed volunteering as a lake host, especially after Labor Day, when the formal Lake Host program ends. Last year Larry Sunderland trained for and volunteered as a lake host in this late period. Volunteer hours count toward budgetary relief from NH Lakes.

New Business.

Report from Contoocook/North Branch Local Advisory Committee. Tim Finn is Deering rep to this LAC. Tim reported that the C/NB LAC was planning an effort to control plastics in that

river. He will present details at a future meeting. Tim also reported that towns pay dues to LACS to help them carry out projects and maintain web sites. The dues are voluntary.

DES proposed wetland rules. Samuels introduced newly proposed wetland rules for NHDES. The upshot of the proposed rules is that in many cases conservation commission is no longer involved in project review. The result is that local expertise/knowledge is not taken into consideration. The NH Association of Conservation Commissions has objected to the rules. Samuels proposed that DCC submit a letter in opposition, and presented a draft to DCC members for their approval. Deadline for submission is COB 18 Jan. DCC members supported this idea.

The meeting was adjourned by chairperson Samuels at 7:20.

The next meeting will be held on 11 February.

Respectfully submitted

Gary Samuels, chair and secretary

Deering Conservation Commission