

BRENTWOOD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting of January 9, 2019

Members in attendance: Emily Schmalzer, Edie Shipley and Jeff Donald, chair
Selectmen's Rep in attendance: Phyllis Thompson
Alternates in attendance: Doug Cowie and Jody Kaufman
Public Present: Debbie Briscoe

Meeting convened at 7:05 PM

Thompson moved to give Cowie voting Rights. Schmalzer seconded and motion passed.

Cowie moved the December minutes, Schmalzer seconded and motion passed.

Kaufman arrived and Schmalzer moved to give her voting rights. Cowie seconded and motion passed.

No members of the public appeared to offer alternative suggestions for naming the Split Rock Conservation Area.

After some discussion about concerns about parking and access, Thompson was asked to ask the Board of Selectmen to put a "standard" street sign and/or Class VI road sign at the South Road end of Old Haigh Road. While there is no parking, this is a public right of way and provides access to the conservation area.

The Family Moonlight Snowshoe is scheduled for 7 PM on January 19, 2019. Notices have been posted in the Brentwood Newsletter and on the Town's website and both town Facebook pages. A Facebook event was created as well.

It's time to start planning the Spring Roadside Clean-Up. The Saturday closest to Earth Day is the same weekend as Easter. Dudley-Tatman had expressed some concerns to Donald about this. Those in attendance didn't think it would be a problem, but weren't sure when the school vacation was and didn't want to schedule anything without Dudley-Tatman's input, since she usually organizes it.

Schmalzer moved to pay \$200 for the ESRLAC 2019 annual dues. Cowie seconded and the motion passed.

Cowie moved to pay \$325 for the NHACC 2019 annual dues. Shipley seconded and the motion passed.

Cowied moved to pay \$1,238.20 for the SELT year-end invoice. Kaufman seconded and the motion passed.

At the December meeting, representatives of the 3 Ponds project attended to ask the Conservation Commission to sign off on their Permit by Notification. The ConComm voted to allow Donald to sign the form, assuming the form matched that meeting's presentation. Donald explained that the permit application he received did match the presentation and he had signed the form and returned it. He later received a notification for NHDES stating that the project did not qualify for a PBN.

Donald recently attended a public hearing held by NHDES at Pease regarding changes to the wetland permitting process. NHDES has gathered a stakeholder group to streamline the process. There are many changes that will make it easier to apply and other changes that will require more public input. The likely changes will also drastically reduce the role of Conservation Commissions in wetland permitting.

Donald gave Commission members a draft of the warrant article that will be used to support the Martin easement. He is waiting on comments from SELT before finalizing it and submitting it to the Town Administrator.

Shiple's and Bunker's terms end in March. Shiple agreed that she would like to serve another term. Donald will contact Bunker if he would like to serve again, as well.

Schmalzer agreed to write the annual report.

Donald suggested that next year the ConComm consider moving any unspent funds to the Conservation Fund. Wofchuck learned of this option recently during a webinar on Conservation Funds.

Donald had received an anonymous complaint of a possible easement violation and is working with the Town Administrator to look into it.

Briscoe is concerned about a House Bill that may allow electric bikes to be used on trails. The bill seems to provide an option for municipalities to restrict their use. The ConComm will continue to follow this bill.

The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Submitted by Jeff Donald.