



TOWN OF PELHAM

6 Village Green
Pelham, NH 03076

PELHAM FORESTRY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES – **APPROVED on 10/23/2023**

MONDAY
09/25/23
7PM-9:09pm

PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT:
14 Village Green, Pelham, NH 03076
Pelham Police Station Community Room

Attendance

Committee Members

Mike Gendreau
Raymond Brunelle
Paul Gagnon
Linda Irish-Simpson
Bob Lamoureux

Start of Meeting – 7PM Pledge of Allegiance

April 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Minutes approved for FC meeting on 07/24/23. (Vote: Yes - 5 & No -0).

Minutes approved for Site-Walk meeting 08/01/2023. (Vote: Yes - 5 & No -0).

Open Forum: Nick Spanos – Noticed in Peabody that rocks are still there. Mentioned how overgrown the area is. Got into some specifics. Mentioned the signs listed might be misleading. Hunting is allowed earlier than dusk and dawn. Members felt it shouldn't be a problem and no changes will be made. Attention was mentioned about the entire area being extremely overgrown and will be addressed later in the agenda.

James Fisher – Asked for an update on the wetland infringement. Paul G explained it is still in process. Updated with some details and will update again in a future meeting. Second, Mr. Fisher stated he did the right to know act and found 18 times Mr. Gagnon turned in people for violations in the past 5 years. Paul G asked for copies; Mr. Fisher will give him them. Paul G stated they were likely done as Chair of Conservation not Forestry and because he was Chair his name would be on them. Mike G stated that because this was done through CC it should not be in our meeting.

Matthew Fisher – Asked if all people who abut the Class A trail were notified prior to the warrant article. Mike G stated he was not part of that article, not part of Forestry @ that time. Matthew said his property has 7 other people on title and that they were not notified. Mike G said he would have to reach out to legal and follow up. Bob L was curious if FC had anything to do with it. Paul G said no but then said it was started by the FC then by the select board. He said FC has no control over Class VI roads. FC made the proposal to the select board to change to Class A trail. Paul G was part of it as a rep from FC. Paul G suggested Mike G ask about the legality about the question. Our BOS Chair, Heather Corbette gave her analysis on the prior details of the warrant article. Some back and forth with James Fisher and Heather. Heather stated she could look back at details on how it was put together. Mike G mentioned we have asked



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Chair of CC, T/A, Fire and Police Chief working on a solid solution to this but the report is not finished yet. Mr. Picard asked that the right thing is done.

Bridge Estimates: Bridge estimate to rebuild two bridges in Little Island Pond area. Some back-and-forth discussion. Estimate was for \$4,560. There is another bridge with an estimate but was unable to print and will be pushed to the October meeting. Paul G asked if we really need railings. The estimates include railings. Seeing we have them currently it was agreed they should stay. Additional bridges will be addressed in the future. All are coming up on 2 decades old. (Motion by Paul G to agree to rebuild the bridges as quoted but not to exceed \$5,000. Ray B second. Vote: Yes - 5 & No -0). Bob L stated this needs to be done this fall. Mike G also mentioned a site-walk could be scheduled to see the condition of the bridge over near Moose Pond. No site-walk scheduled that evening.

Condition of Red Trail: Linda brought up some unauthorized trails in the Cutter Merriam Conservation Area. She detailed them at the meeting. Bob L mentioned that the area she is asking about is likely a snowmobile trail. A lot of back and forth. Paul G felt any trails should be brought to the committee; Bob L disagrees. A site-walk was suggested. It was not scheduled yet. Mike G stated that in the winter if people see an opening, they will drive through it. We are never going to be able to police everything. Paul G said he doesn't have much trouble with that.

Fall Work Needed: Linda had emailed a spread sheet where fall maintenance should be done. Detailed with material needed / volunteers to do it. One option if we find something needed, we could speak with Brian Johnson @ Parks and Rec to consider asking the Boy Scouts. Lots of back and forth. Mike G mentioned how he would like to coordinate a significant number of volunteers who have reached out who can help with lots of heavy trail work. He feels the subcommittee has dropped off to only a 2-3 people and we really should talk about combining these new volunteers, trail adopters and remaining sub committee members. Revisit calling it something different. Tim K asked about who is responsible for those who volunteer and if they get hurt. The other option is to hire contractors to do everything which would be an enormous cost. Heather said she would follow up with legal about volunteers and injury. More discussion about how to come up with a pilot program to coordinate everyone interested and make them feel a part of it. Linda suggested we try her plan which is link on website, have people who can take care of areas in different sections. Bob wants the Chair to call the list we must see where they stand on being on a trails committee. Mike G said it would take a long time. He does not have any email addresses; life is extremely busy and feels we do not need an enormous amount of people. Paul G suggested we focus more on making sure trail adopters be the eyes and ears of the areas they live, strengthen their role. Ask trail volunteers to be involved also. Trail adopter Debbie Kruzel spoke up saying she walks basically all trails over a 2-week period. All agreed this year the overgrowth is awful. Mike G asked Linda to provide trail adopter duties and that we need to make sure they are meeting their duties. Mike G feels it would be best as Chair to reach out via email with some updates on how things are going and try to get some more communication. A monthly or every two-month newsletter as to what is happening. He suggested bringing in all trail adopters and new people interested in getting involved. The



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discussion went back to other areas of interest. Linda brought up bridge repair over at Gumpas and needs some wood. (Motion by Paul G to appropriate \$500 for materials. Linda second. Vote: Yes - 5 & No -0). Linda is proposing a bridge of some sort (punchon or snowmobile) put in the area Cutler Spaulding (pictures sent) on the blue trail. 5-minute walk and felt a site walk would not be a bad idea. Bob L suggested instead of a site walk we can individually look at these areas. Mike G asked if this would be a worry about the need for permits but was told if we went bank to bank, we would be fine. Paul and Bob do not need to see the area. Mike and Ray will make time to go see this area. Ray thought this could be a problem because of the wet-season but was told it is a habitual problem. Bob L suggested Linda could connect with Mike Taylor and just get an estimate. Paul G felt we could ask for volunteers to assist. Last area @ Cutter Meriam on the red trail. Paul G will take care of it over the next few weeks. Other area would be the Yellow/White trail (long trail). The whole bridge needs to go. Will be looked at.

Tools to be Purchased: Linda suggested hand saw and some hedge clippers. She also thought a battery operated weedwhacker with extra battery. Discussion was no weedwhacker (safety). (Motion by Ray B to allow Linda to purchase tools to help trail adopters to assist with trail maintenance up to \$100.00. Paul G second. Vote: Yes - 5 & No -0).

Trail Adopter Meeting: Mike & Linda to connect to schedule something.

Hike Challenge Update: We are up to 43 people since last report with 3 extra people and 2 new trail adopters.

Walk-In Items: Paul G – Forest management plan for Moose Pond to hopefully be done in October & review in November. Mowing schedule is 3 years, certain areas done every year and only 2 getting done this year. 1/3rd @ Merriam Farms and 1 at Woven. The cost \$1,750 for both places.

(Motion by Linda to vote for \$1,750 for mowing. Ray B second. Vote: Yes - 5 & No -0).

We have 2 days set aside to treat for invasives in Cutter Merriam. Gumpas Pond last year 500 feet was done last year. Touch up treatment this year is in the plan. Merriam Farm treat up to 5 acres and field edge specifically where the mowing was done last year. Mike G asked what the treatment was. He is licensed and research was done last year.

(Motion by Linda to appropriate up to \$5,000.00 and not to exceed for invasive treatment. Ray B second. Vote: Yes - 5 & No -0).

Adjourn: 9:12PM (Vote: motion to adjourn meeting Bob L, second Paul G 5-0)