

Stoddard Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, Jan 22, 2020

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Town Hall

Members Present: (marked with XX)

Geoff Jones__XX

Scott Semmens__XX

Paul Crosby__XX

Helen Tam-Semmens__XX

Bob Fee__XX

Margo Santoro__XX

1. Approved minutes of Oct 23, 2019.

2. Geoff reported an incident of an ATV travelling at max rpm on Bull's Trail that could have hit he and his wife walking their horses by the junction of Old Antrim Rd and Bull's Trail at the time. The fact that the ATV originated on a class V road makes it illegal. Bob confirmed that it is illegal, and said that such cases should be under Fish and Game, as well as police jurisdiction. Geoff said that the incident is presently under Hancock Chief of Police investigation.

Geoff witnessed another incident of some ATVs travelling on Island Pond, then took off on emergent vegetation in the Trevor Price easement area. The loud noise may indicate modified exhaust violation. Damaging wetland is also a concern. Bob suggested that Geoff call Fish and Game about such incidences.

Helen remembered last year seeing some ATVs travelling on Island Pond and repeatedly came on shore trespassing her next door neighbors' properties. Bob said that it would be good to report such incidences to Fish and Game, especially if wetland is involved, because if wetland is damaged, the property owner could be held responsible even though the property owner did not cause the damage.

3. Geoff brought up the bill SB 588: Prohibiting Wildlife Killing Contests. He said wildlife killing contests are wanton waste of resources, because a lot of wildlife are killed but typically not used. It is against conservation because conservation is about wise use. Wildlife killing contests are not considered fair chase hunting either.

Helen mentioned another bill, HB 1571, which makes the Fish and Game Commission more inclusive. For instance, it allows conservationists to serve on the Commission, which makes sense because "conservation, protection, and management of wildlife populations and habitats" is Fish and Game's main duty. New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) supports the bill.

4. Reviewed town's wetland application for replacing the culverts at Kennedy Brook. The culverts have been red-listed by the state and so have to be replaced ASAP. The Con Com is not submitting comments.

5. Scott said that in order for the Con Com to purchase the annual licence for the Esri ArcGIS, the number for the Con Com's non-profit registration is required. Bob Fee will check and provide the number.

6. Next scheduled meeting to be on Feb 26, 2020, 7:30 at the town hall.