CONSERVATION COMMISSION
November 13, 2019 at 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET

In attendance:

Members: Joel Wood, Hugh Mellert, Bill Mlacak, Jim Kennedy (Chair), Whit Spaulding (Vice Chair), John Trummel.
Alternates:
Staff: Vicki Smith
Others: Jim Rubens, Susan Locke

1. CURRENT BUSINESS

Reviewed an application for private construction on the Class VI Etna Highlands Rd. No issues were identified. It was requested that a no trespassing sign be moved so that it would not mislead the public about access to the road.

Reviewed an application for a wetland special exception at 31 Three Mile Road. No issues were identified. The Commission would like to review the driveway plan once it has been approved by the Department of Public Works.

2) Administrative Business

The FY2020 budget was reviewed. Funds for chainsaw and grip hoist training will be allocated. Also, funds will be allocated for invasive removal at Wilsons Landing, the amount is yet to be determined.

John Sherman, from the Department of Parks and Recreation, addressed the Conservation Commissions request to include additional stewardship of “In Town Open Space Lands”. John requested more specific information on the additional work so that he could include it in his budget proposal, which is due 12/16/2019. The Conservation Commission will prepare a more detailed proposal. Jim Kennedy, Bill Mlacak, and Joel Wood agreed to pull this together.

A request by the USDA Forest Service was reviewed, seeking an administrative exception to use prescribed fire management in the Hudson Farm wildlife opening, and adjacent areas. The Conservation Commission supports this proposal.

3) Committee Reports

Trails Committee
The Commission discussed the desire to have the Upper Valley Trail Alliance pursue grant Quabbin to Cardigan funding for the Moose Mountain ridgeline trail project. It was decided that the proposal should be reviewed at the December Conservation Commission meeting so
that Vicki Smith can review the project scope and work done for the last Moose Mountain grant.

The survey for the Partridge Rd. to Woodcock Rd. connector was reviewed. Further details clearly marking property boundaries was requested. Bill Mlacak will arrange to mark the location of the proposed trail within the right-of-way, and review it with the adjacent land owners.

4) Minutes

The minutes from October 9 were approved.

5) ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Wood
Conservation Commissioner