

**Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Site Walk Minutes
Saturday, April 14, 2018**

Commission Members Present

Laura Bogardus, Chairman
Bill Fisher
Tom Sorensen
Patience Taylor, Secretary

Others Present

Barry Keith, Town Forester
Steve Yurick

A site walk was conducted at 9:00 AM on April 14, 2018 by town forester, Barry H. Keith (BHK), members of the Farmington Conservation Commission (FCC), and local landscape contractor, Steve Yurick.

FRENCH LOT

The site visit started at the French lot parking area located off of Hornetown Road. The parking lot and kiosk were deemed in “good shape” after the prolonged winter period.

BHK discussed the NHF&G Small Grants program with those attendees. Potential exists to secure grant monies to help defray the cost of some of the property management. Those attending agreed that pursuing the grant would be beneficial. FCC chair, Laura Bogardus, stated that she would check with other FCC members for concurrence, prior to initiating any grant application.

The group hiked the nature trail and inspected the respective foot bridges. Overall the trail was in good shape. The bridge nearest to the Mad River had again become dislodged from the bank. The bridge near the “humpback rock” had been flooded in the past and was partially undermined. Based on these observations, Steve Yurick will work up a quote for the FCC to correct and secure these crossings.

The “wildlife field” was inspected. It was discussed that the field should be brush hogged later this year after the ground nesting season (after July 1st). The mowing is a practice which will be included in the F&G grant application.

DUBOIS LOT

The parking area off of River Road was inspected. A significant amount of trash was observed at this location. This area will be incorporated into the FCC “annual clean-up day.” While cameras exist at this and other locations on town conservation lands, the cameras need to be checked and re-positioned in order to continue monitoring activities at these locations.

The access road, gate, and condition of the wildlife opening were reviewed. While the gate was closed, no lock was evident. Laura B. noted that she will follow-up to determine the status of the lock. It was discussed that the gate was left open during the last State Easement Monitor inspection. The culvert near the gate was partially plugged with leaves. This old culvert is likely rotten and partially crushed. A replacement of the culvert should be incorporated into any future logging activities on the property.

The access road and wildlife opening were mowed in the fall of 2017 by Steve Yurick. Future work should include liming and fertilizing this area later in 2018. This practice may qualify for F&G grant monies.

TOWN FOREST

Significant trash was observed at the small parking lot west of the Cocheco River. Trash clean-up will be conducted during the annual "trash clean-up day." While the gate and kiosk were in good condition, the roadside sign off of Bay Road and the internal sign are in need of some repair and possible re-positioning. The camera was missing.

Discussion centered on cutting back vegetation around the parking area perimeter and widening the area to accommodate 3-4 vehicles. Tree cutting, stone placement and the installation of fill would be necessary to widen the area. All agreed that improving visibility from Bay Road may deter vandalism and trash.

BHK reviewed the location of the potential new log landing off of Bay Road, approximately 150' east of the parking area. This location would require a DPW Driveway Permit approval and a DES Wetland Forestry Notification filing. The landing is positioned so as to not adversely impact the existing parking area. During the logging operation, tree removal for the parking lot expansion could occur and the use of existing stones could potentially be employed to re-position and extend the toe of slope of the parking area. After the logging operation, the log landing would be re-graded and "grassed in", comparable to the previous landing located to the east of the Cocheco River.

The former log landing, grassed area, east of the river should be limed and fertilized in 2018. This practice may qualify for F&G grant monies.