

Atkinson Conservation Commission Minutes
Wednesday, October 2, 2019
Atkinson Community Center

Approved October 7, 2019

Members Present:

Paul Wainwright, Chair
Denise Legault, Vice Chair
Pete McVay, Secretary
Dan Kimball

Others Present:

Charlie Moreno, Consulting Forester

1) Call to Order & Attendance:

Chair Wainwright called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, October 2, 2019. Chair Wainwright reviewed the attendance list and declared that a quorum was present. He also confirmed that this meeting was posted in two locations more than 24 hours ago.

2) Proposal for Invasive Plant Mitigation in the Sawyer Town Forest:

The Commission discussed the proposal for managing invasive plants that was prepared by Charlie Moreno, the town's Consulting Forester. A copy of this proposal was attached to the September 9, 2019 minutes.

Those attending agreed that our goal should be to maintain a healthy forest in the central area shown in green in Charlie's report. As documented in Charlie's report, this part of the forest is relatively free of invasive plants. Those attending today's meeting agreed that the management program should be to:

- Organize a volunteer effort to manually uproot the relatively few invasives in the green zone. This would include training and oversight by qualified professionals.
- Hire a qualified professional to eliminate invasive plants in the yellow Transitional Zone to prevent further infestation in the central portion of the forest. This could possibly include the localized use of herbicides.
- For now, do relatively little in the heavily infested red zones. Some possible activities we discussed could include cutting the stems on major Bittersweet vines that cover entire trees (to reduce the seed load that is carried by birds), and to use a "rent-a-goat" contractor to reduce the number of ground-level invasives, although goats eat just about everything, both good and bad.

The general consensus was that Charlie should proceed with soliciting bids from qualified vendors.

3) **Adjournment:**

Chair Wainwright asked if there was any other business to discuss, and hearing none, he requested a motion to adjourn.

Denise Legault made a motion to adjourn the October 2, 2019 special meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission. Pete McVay seconded the motion. Four members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission present at the October 2, 2019 meeting voted in favor. Vote: 4/0/0.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Pete McVay departed, and the remaining three members proceeded to accompany Charlie Moreno on an inspection of the Carolyn Orr Town Forest, which is adjacent to the Community Center. This is the inspection that was required by the New Hampshire Tree Farm Administrator that was discussed at the September 9 meeting – see item 8j in those minutes. Discussions about invasive plant mitigation continued as we walked the Carolyn Orr Town Forest land.