

## **Pownal Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** February 22, 2022

**1. Members present:** Matt Welch, Kathy Elders, Dick Hogue, Wellens King, Angela King-Horne

**2. Approval of minutes:** January 25, 2022 meeting

**3. Public comments:** none

### **4. New Business:**

- a) Pownal Comprehensive Plan passed after two requests for amendments which were voted against: one request was for a weekly update letter from the Select Board on the comprehensive plan progress; the second request was to incorporate language that the Select Board had to take actions to follow the plan. Both amendment requests were voted against because the Comprehensive Plan Committee pointed out that there was already language in the bill that would hold the Select Board accountable for following the town plan.
- b) The animal control ordinance was amended to keep consistent language, the term animal not mammal.
- c) Freeport Community Services (FCS) oversees the Age-Friendly Freeport Pownal committee, and they want to ramp up their programs and get Pownal more involved: get food pantry packages out in Pownal, connect trails from Freeport to Pownal to get people to parks which the Pownal Conservation Commission could work with Freeport on; Kathy said that we can combine efforts with Freeport, work on trails to keep the town rural but not isolated.
- d) Pownal town land varies: Sweetser Road is a loop, not connected to other trails; forests vs. trails.
- e) Matt suggested that the commission have a workshop, look at maps and see where lands can be connected by trails or by decommissioned roads; and mentioned that the town of New Gloucester has a parks and recreation committee.
- f) Earth Day plan is to clean Hodsdon mill site, but the proposal and request for the town to get parking spaces on the private road near the town land has not been finalized, so maybe to keep from hurting/ undermining the parking space deal, plan B could be for the Earth Day team to establish trails on Map 9 Lot 51 and 52; Matt mentioned that we could also go back to Poland Range Road where evasive species were cleared by the commission a few years ago.

### **5. Old Business:**

- a) Merrill Road development: planning board has the authority to grant waivers; the developers have to re-apply since the last plan was denied; they tried to get a waiver to not have to create separate septic systems so the houses could be built closer to each other.

**6. Adjourn:** next Conservation Commission meeting is on March 22, 2022