**Town of Tinmouth**

**Conservation Commission**

**Minutes**

**October 16, 2017**

Members present: Doug Fontein, Ann Czar, Jo Reynolds, Nelson Jaquay, Robbie Leeds, Chuck Bronk

Public present: Gail Fallar,

Doug called the meeting to order 7:35 pm

Minutes from 8/21/17 meeting accepted as written

Agenda additions: Drachman trails update, Nelson Jaquay.

***Old Business:***.

Chuck Bronk gave an update from a web search on commercially available Amphibian Crossing Signs. While a wide variety of standard signs are available both for amphibians and reptiles, there are not a great many that represent the diversity on our custom signs. Costs for standard 18” x18” signs range from $12-$25 without sign poles. Custom signs are more expensive and most users quote the installed cost for a custom sign complete with double poles to be around $100. Consensus was reached that we should spend no more than $50. Robbie Leeds agreed to explore what would be available from a local design firm and Chuck Bronk agreed to forward the standard design that everyone agreed upon, so that it could form the basis for an estimated cost.

Doug reported on the progress made on the Ridge Trail on the most recent work day, September 9th. Trail was cleared and blazed from the Gilmore property south for approximately ½ mile. Passage across the Gilmore property was reported by Anne Czar to be easy to follow from North to South but difficult on the reverse path. Gail Fallar suggested a possible volunteer for trail extension, Doug Inkley , a yearly visitor to Tinmouth. Doug suggested an additional work day this fall with the goal of extending the trail to Miles Notch. At that point the Cabin in the purchase would still be about 1 ½ miles to the South. It was agreed that Saturday October 28th at 1 PM would be set as the next work day on the upper trail. Chuck Bronk and Nelson Jaquay agreed to set another time to work on the lower portion of the trail to improve the bog bridges. Once that time is set, with sufficient notice, Doug agreed to organize delivery of material to site.

Doug also reported on improvements to the Purchase Loop and the Tinmouth Mountain Cabin. He noted that Pent road has been considerably improved and is now passable to the summer parking kiosk. The work day crew completed the toilet and the compost bin installation. All that remains is the installation of hardware cloth to keep animals out of the compost bin. Doug circulated an operations guide to the use and maintenance of the toilet for discussion. It was suggested that a permanent mark be made on the buckets to indicate the point at which they should be dumped, cleaned and replaced. In addition, for winter use, spraying the bucket with compostable oil might ease the cleaning process if the contents are frozen.

A discussion of ways to improve participation in Green Up day followed. It was noted that the Tinmouth School participation on Friday may be leading to less participation on Saturday. Nelson agreed to promote Saturday participation at multiple Friday Roundups. Doug agreed to resurrect the prizes awarded for various items collected on Green Up day and all agreed that the ice cream at the close of the collection should continue

***New Business:***

Doug and Robbie reported on their attendance at the Select Board meeting and their sense of the Board’s focus on matters other than recreational use of the remainder of the Transfer Station parcel. It was their sense that logistical problems with recreational use of the land locked portion of the site would prevent its consideration until the more pressing issues of recycling, transfer station and town garage were settled.

Doug reviewed the Northwoods Stewardship Center for members unfamiliar with it, but has not yet made contact with the group.

Nelson provided an update on the Drachman trails. Plans are to take advantage of Peter Drachman’s knowledge of the trails, when he is visiting, to get them flagged. The possibility of a work day was discussed.

Finally Doug mentioned a documentary on Lake Champlain on Oct. 19th at 3 PM. with town hall meetings following on November 8th at the Paramount in Rutland.

Next meeting **Monday** January 15, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.

Adjourned at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Bronk, Secretary