

**Town of Bennington
Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting – January 17, 2013**

Conservation Commission Members Present: John Baybutt, Jon Manley, Joe MacGregor, Valerie Germain, and guest, Ben Haubrich

Agenda

- 1. Approve Minutes**
- 2. Perambulation**
- 3. Membership**
- 4. Correspondence**

1. Approve November Minutes – Dee French emailed the CC to make us aware of an error in the November 15, 2012 minutes:

“Inaccurate info needs to be amended. The culvert project at the end of Bible Hill Road is slated to be completed AFTER the bridge construction project on North Bennington Road. The bridge project will kick off this winter and run the 2013 calendar year. The culvert project will be done early summer of 2014 after the bridge has been completed.”

The minutes were amended and then approved by members present.

2. Perambulation – Ben Haubrich, Francestown Selectmen’s appointee for perambulations, attended the meeting to review the final perambulation of the Bennington-Francestown town lines completed on December 1, 2012. His report, which will be filed with the Secretary of State, accompanies these minutes as an addendum.

Ben shared with members a list of resources that he has found helpful for perambulations. He will email the list of web resources to us so we can have it for future perambulation projects. Ben also offered to meet and show us how to access maps on the Internet in the future.

The Bennington Conservation Commission would like to express its appreciation and gratitude to Ben Haubrich for his knowledge and expertise through the perambulation process.

3. Membership - Our Conservation Commission has seen a decline in active members in the last year.

Action Item: Reach out to Bennington residents who may be interested in joining the Conservation Commission.

4. Correspondence

a) A copy of a letter was forwarded to the CC from the Town Hall per Quantum Construction’s request pertaining to the Bible Hill Road Culvert Replacement Project.

b) A copy of a Wetlands Permit and Non-Site Specific Permit issued to the Town of Bennington was received from NHDES regarding the conditions of the permit of the Bible Hill Culvert Replacement Project.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Germain
Conservation Commission Secretary

ADDENDUM TO JANUARY 17TH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

2012 PERAMBULATION OF THE TOWN LINE BETWEEN FRANCESTOWN AND BENNINGTON

Following notice given to the Town of Bennington by The Town of Francestown, Francestown Selectmen's appointee Ben Haubrich and Bennington Selectmen's appointed Conservation Commission members Valerie Germain, Joe MacGregor, and John Baybutt, accompanied by Phil Germain and Dawn Baybutt, met by mutual agreement on October 20, 2012 and, using a Garmin GPSMAP 60Cx, notes from plans recorded at the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds (HCRD), the 1873 and 1982 perambulation reports (attached), and Blister Rust maps from the state archives, perambulated the town line (t/l) between said towns. At each monument found we photographed the monument, renewed the marks (F, B), added the date (2012 or 12, depending on space), re-photographed and collected the GPS waypoint (usually to an accuracy of about 10').

At 9:40 AM the group started the perambulation at the NW corner of Francestown, along the Deering t/l, adjacent to the west side of The Second New Hampshire Turnpike. Here we found the t/l monument (#1 – see attached map and spreadsheet), a 3' high x ~12" x ~8" granite post with a "B" and 19??, and "08" on the side facing Bennington, an "F" on the side facing Francestown, and a "D" on the Deering side. From this point the group then headed S-ly (~2419', ~ S7W per HCRD plan #9278 to a stone wall which we followed (~269', ~ S7W per same plan) to Gillis Rd. where we found an overturned stone monument ~12" x 12" by 4' on the S side of said road. We assumed it was overturned during road widening. Although this monument is not a corner mentioned in previous "Returns" it did have marks from the 1982 perambulation, and perhaps earlier, so we gave it the usual monument treatment (Monument # 1a). We then continued in the same direction following stone walls (~3277' per HCRD plan #10289) to an old road where there was a stone with old paint marks in the jct. of stonewalls on the N side of said old road. (Members of the group with the paint had left to move cars forward, so Haubrich & MacGregor photographed and GPSed this monument (#2) with a promise to get back with the paint to renew the marks. Haubrich & MacGregor then followed the old road and walls E-ly (~629' per same plan, ~N84E per HCRD plan #10289, - Course 2/3) to stonewall heading S-ly. We did not find a monument (#3) at this last wall intersection, but may have missed it [*Haubrich did return & find monument #3 on 12/11/12*]. Haubrich & MacGregor then followed last mentioned wall (~1775', ~ S5W per HCRD plan #4417) to Rte. 47, where there was a state DOT t/l marker. At this point the entire group was back together, and after a quick lunch, continued the perambulation. According to HCRD plan #32870 the approximate t/l continued ~269, ~S9E to a corner (Monument #4), but no corner was found despite an exhaustive search

[and return visit on 11/10/2012 by Haubrich with adjacent land owner (Jeff Farres). Haubrich also confirmed with Robert N. Abbot of the 1982 perambulation 'team' that this was one of three corners not found by them] This and the next three corners (Monument #s 5, 6 & 7) apparently were obliterated during the Onset Ski Area and associated condominium development in the 1970's and early 1980's. Using HCRD plan #21579 (sheet 2) and plan #32497, combined with aerial imagery showing approximate t/l locations (GRANIT/Bing) the group was able to walk somewhat near the t/l's and observe some remnant t/l evidence such as a stone wall in a narrow forested strip between two ski slopes (p/o Course 5/6), a narrow 'plateau' crossing ski slopes and going above the condominiums - the abandoned section of Francestown's Mountain Road, which is adjacent to Course 6/7. From this old road we had to find a known line or corner to be sure of where we were going, so we went to the road's intersection (11a) with Course 11/12 and followed the stone wall that was on or near the town line (course 11/12) north ~739', ~N 7 E per HCRD plan #32497 to a corner of walls with a stone bearing old perambulation marks (Monument #11). We then followed the wall ~ 603', ~S85E per HCRD plan # 32497 (Course 10/11) to a corner of walls with marked stone (Monument #10). We then followed the wall ~ 42', ~N7E per HCRD plan # 32497 (Course 9/10) to a corner of walls with marked stone (Monument #9). We then followed the wall ~411', ~S81E per HCRD plan # 32497 (Course 8/9) past the end of the wall to a marked small boulder (Monument #8) at the N end of a N-S stone wall (Course 7/8). *This monument, near the base of Onset Rd. may have been moved in recent years. Both HCRD plans 21579 (dated 1987) and 32497 (dated 2002) show the monument separate from the N-S wall and in line with Course 8/9. This marked small boulder is currently the end piece of the N-S wall and not in line with Course 8/9.* After doing the standard monument work we followed the wall ~S until it ended then continued (spreading out) in the same general direction behind the condominiums until we came to the section of Mountain Rd. where we had been unable to find Monument #7. After doing another thorough, but fruitless, search the time was about 3 PM and, knowing we had neither the time nor energy to finish the perambulation, we decided to regroup at a future date to be determined later.

[The above-mentioned missing monument (#7) was found by the 1982 team according to Robert Abbott. On 11/9/12 he & I went back to this area to search, but without success.]

On Saturday Dec. 1, 2012 Ben Haubrich, Betsy Hardwick (Chair, Francestown Board of Selectmen), and Robin Haubrich, after spotting cars at the Crotched Mountain Foundation trailhead in Greenfield, met with Bennington Conservation Commission members (BOS designated to do perambulation) Jon Baybut, Joe MacGregor & Jon Manley at the intersection of Mountain Rd. & Course 11/12. We followed the stone wall on/or near Course 11/12 ~2693', ~S7W per HCRD plan #32497 to a corner of walls with marked stone (Monument #12.) We then went ~835', ~S80E per HCRD plan # 32497 (Course 12/13) past the end of the wall and up over steep rock outcrop to the end of a wall with marked stone (Monument #13). We then followed the wall ~ 1672', ~S10W per HCRD plan # 32639 (Course 13/14) to a corner of walls with marked stone (Monument #14). We then followed the wall ~ 1267', ~S79E per GPS & TOPO! mapping software (Course 14/15) to a corner of walls with marked stone (Monument #15). We then went ~ 4291', ~S7W per GPS & TOPO! mapping software (Course 15/16) following the wall over steep ledges past its end, then following a compass bearing of ~ S over 1000' to where the wall started again (there was what appeared to be a monument [upright stone with a B, held up by two or three other stones] ~750' down this wall-less section.) and followed the renewed

wall to its ending at an ~ E-W wall with an iron pipe marking the intersection (Monument #16). This being the SE corner of Bennington, the NE corner Greenfield and on the W line of Francestown the perambulation was completed. We followed the contour SW to Shannon's trail which we followed back to the parking lot, arriving at our cars at ~2:30 PM

Summary written by:

Ben Haubrich
Francestown Selectmen's Appointee

Betsy Hardwick, Chair
Francestown Board of Selectmen

John Baybutt, Chair
Bennington Conservation Commission

Joe MacGregor
Bennington Conservation Commission

Attachments:

1 spreadsheet with courses, distances, monuments
1 spreadsheet with monument GPS coordinates
TOPO! map showing Monument #s & waypoints
Copies of 1943 & 1982 "Returns"

Original: Town of Francestown
CC: Town of Bennington
New Hampshire Secretary of State

