

## Town of Brookfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Agenda – Feb 5, 2020 (no meeting Jan, 2020)

Commission Members: Bob Nielsen, Frank Frazier, Pat Girard, Rich Zacher (Selectman's Representative)

Pat Girard reminded me that he will not be able to attend this meeting as he is in Florida.

I have encouraged Al Weedon, a fairly new resident who lives on Lyford Road, to attend this meeting as he might be interested in joining the Conservation Commission.

Due to interior painting being done in the Town Office Building, our meeting will take place in the Town House (adjacent building).

1. Meeting called to order
2. Peter Baker. Having worked with Peter for the past year or so on the Conservation Commission, we are deeply saddened by his passing. He was an effective, intelligent, and dedicated member. So pleasant to be in the company of Peter, complete with his insightful observations, his antique car, his varied interests, and his great sense of humor. I have included his obituary in this agenda.

### 3. Public Comments

### 4. Review of Dec 4, 2019 minutes

### 5. Mail:

#### a) Meredith Savings Bank Statement:

Dec 10, 2019 Interest: \$0.07 (0.02%)	Balance: \$5,430.33
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Jan 10, 2020 Interest: \$0.05 (0.01%)	Balance: \$5,430.38
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### 6. Old Business

a) Selectmen's consideration of seasonal "gates" at each end of the Town Preserve field to encourage only foot traffic?

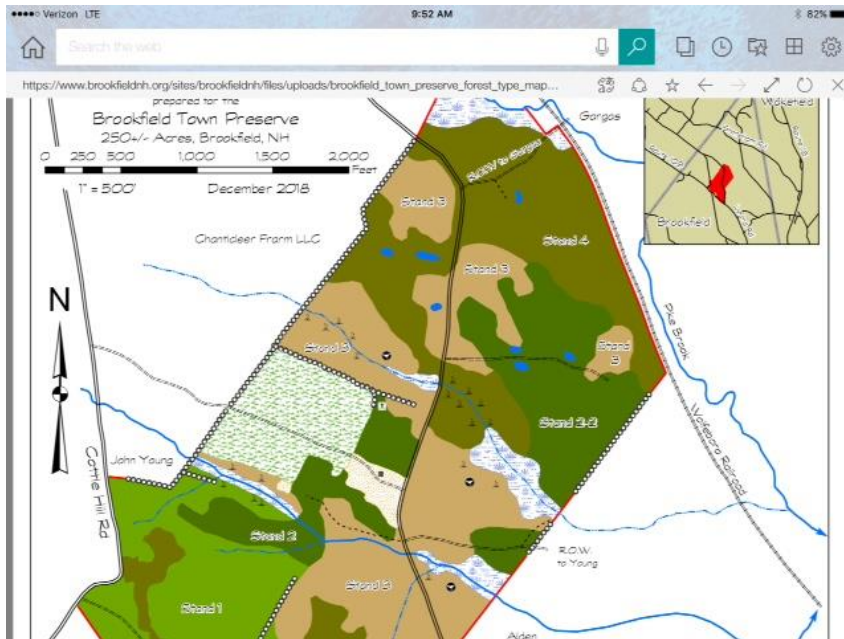
b) Update from Frank in his role as Conservation Commission liaison to the Planning Board with respect to the inclusion of the CC Natural Resources Index (NRI) in helping to mold the Master Plan. Water rights? Stone walls? We need to add the Snow Conservation Easement to the NRI.

c) A few meeting minutes still not completed by me. I am impressed with Janice Girard's Minutes (with Pat's input) from the Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Wondering if I could give

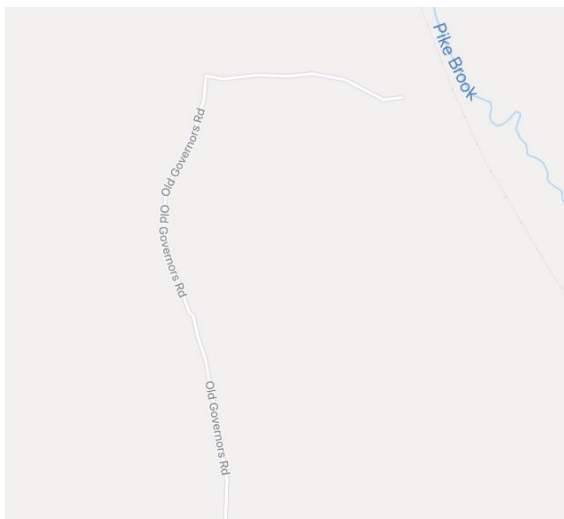
Pat copies of the agendas with meeting notes from July 3 and September 4 to have the minutes done? I would love to bring the loose-leaf binder of hard copies of meeting agendas and minutes up-to-date. The website also.

d) Following Rich Zacher's suggestion in our last meeting, I still need to contact UNH regarding getting someone to come up and talk about composting.

e) Town Preserve proposed trail to the rail trail.



Note trail going off to the right from Old Governor's Road toward the rail trail. Where on the rail trail does it come closest?



Using Google Maps, we can see that the trail comes close to the rail trail. But where?



Using what Frank taught me about Google Maps, I stood at Sadies Pool (aka Hobo Junction) on the rail trail and moved my iPhone in the direction of the trail, and now I know that the trail could come out on the rail trail at Sadies Pool.

How close can we cut to the rail trail? How close should we cut?

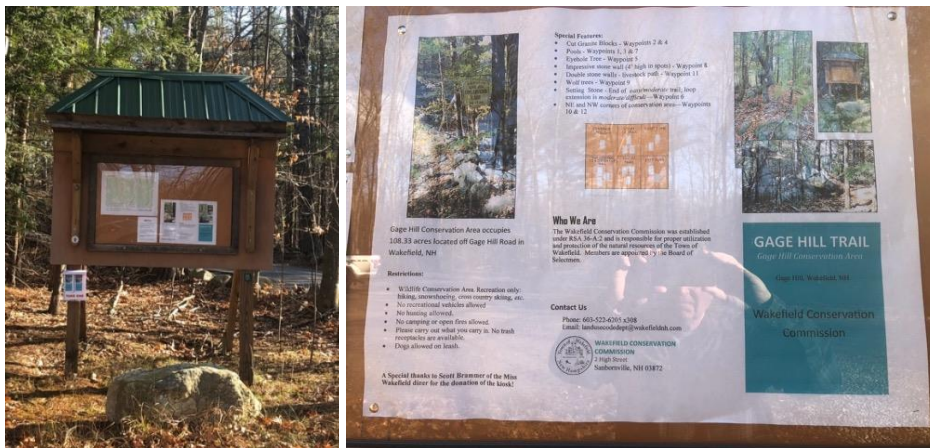
## 7. New Business

a) Mark Stengel and Peter Donnelly have put together a folder of photographs and concerns regarding how the road crew apparently handles certain drainage projects (no apparent use of hay or silt fences), spillage of hazardous material, culverts, and stone walls. Mark gave me the folder several days ago. He initially thought he might attend the meeting, but now he feels he will not attend. I met with them for the better part of two hours on February 3. I impressed upon them that the Conservation Commission can only make suggestions to the Selectmen and that we have no enforcement power. Mark and Peter are wondering how the town might improve procedures through such possible avenues as contracts, ordinances, policy, and procedural detail. As their issues appear to also be ones on conservation, should the Conservation Commission be included in correspondence? Should a flow chart regarding DES permits, road work, etc be created to include the Conservation Commission? Should the town in their website, newsletters, annual reports, etc remind townspeople of expectations concerning hazardous waste, stonewalls, etc.? Could the Planning Board, Master Plan, and Zoning Board help address these concerns?

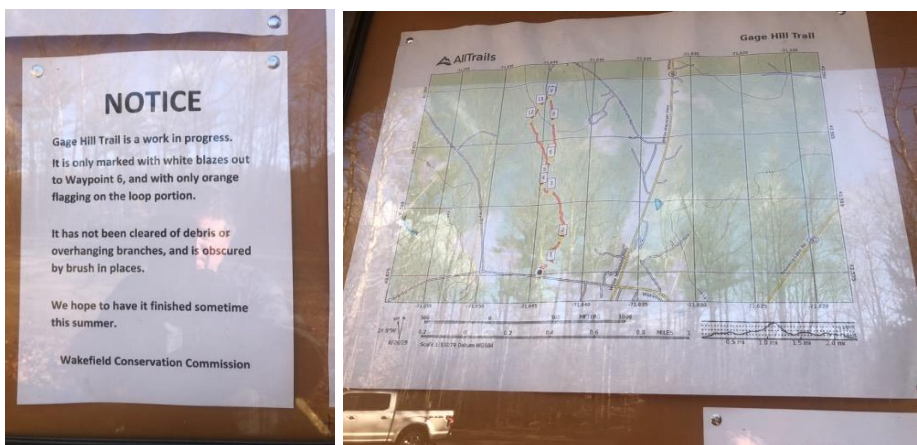
b) Warrant Articles will be voted on at Town Meeting (7pm-8pm) on March 10 after the Town Election (1pm-6pm). As always, one of the Articles will be about funding

the Conservation Commission. That being said, in a more general sense, to better understand the background of the Warrant Articles and to be a more informed and prepared voter (and to also reduce the number of questions that evening!), it will be much to the town resident's advantage to attend the Public Budget Hearing on Thursday, February 6 beginning at 6:30pm. This will be the best opportunity for residents to understand the reasoning behind the Warrant Articles and to offer any amendments.

c) On December 15, I stopped in at the Gage Hill Conservation Area and took a few photographs. I wanted to gather some visual ideas that might help us with the Town Preserve kiosk.



Putting a rock in front for protection and sitting, having brochures, and creating maps of the trails are some ideas worth considering. Occasionally, they plow the parking lot. It appears that there is software called AllTrails that can create maps of trails.



d) Strategic Planning Survey from New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC). Asks for member contact information.

e) The NHACC January e-news has, as always, lots of interesting information. These monthly publications should be considered required reading for our members. Aside from describing the Seven Town Mixer that Frank and I attended, the newsletter offers informative legislative updates. Visit [NHACC.org](http://NHACC.org) to access the e-news. It is interesting to spend time on this website to see what other member towns are doing. You can also follow NHACC on Facebook. I encourage you to visit [nhacc.org](http://nhacc.org) on a regular basis.

8. Selectman's Report

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 4.

10. Close meeting



# OBITUARIES

**BROOKFIELD** — Peter E. Baker, 70, died on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020 at his home in Brookfield after a brief illness. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Peter was born on March 4, 1949 in Salem, Mass. to Willard and Cora (Pace) Baker. He was a proud member of the Ipswich High School Class of 1967, and attended both Wentworth Institute and Nason College. Until his retire-

ment in 2014, he worked for more than 30 years at Brandeis University in Facilities Management.

On June 19, 1970, Peter married Linda (Rogers) Baker. They made a home together in Ipswich, Mass., where they raised three children before retiring to Brookfield in 2015.

Peter was an avid fly fisherman and outdoorsman. He spent many happy days in Errol,

where he and his son Benjamin had built a log cabin. He was recognizable in the Lakes Region driving his 1980 Ford Model A Deluxe delivery truck which he restored himself. Peter's interests were rich and varied. He spent many happy hours boating, fishing and clamming in the waters around Ipswich.

Since retiring to New Hampshire, he filled his time crafting, motorcruising and using his smoker. Peter taught himself the

guitar as a young man, which led to a lifelong love of music.

Peter is survived by his wife of 50 years and three children and their spouses (Benjamin and Jennifer Baker of Ipswich, Mass., Abby Baker and Tyson Davis of Ipswich, Mass., and Elizabeth Baker McClain and Christopher McClain of Taunton). He also leaves behind five grandchildren (Rona Baker of Everett, Mass., Kayley Baker and Bridget Baker, both of Ipswich, Mass., Archer McClain of Taunton, and Morgan Davis of Ipswich, Mass.). He also leaves a beloved sister, Rebecca Lawton, and several nephews and nieces (Stephen and Michelle Baker of Framingham, Mass., Susan and Noel Chase of Barrington, Cors Simonds, and Patrick and Terri Small all of Ipswich, Mass.). He also leaves many friends, consists and great nieces

and nephews.

Peter was predeceased by his parents, Cora and Willard Baker, and his brother, Willard Baker, Jr.

If you wish to express a condolence or leave a fond memory, please visit [www.lordbarnard-home.com](http://www.lordbarnard-home.com).