

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2011; 7pm

Members Present: Jess Halm, Jane Kellogg, Jules Doner, Tammy Wooster

Others Present: Marsh Morgan

1) **March Minutes:**

Jess made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. Jane seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2) **Prospective New Members.**

Jane reported that she had communicated with two people she had in mind as potential new CCC members. One has politely declined, whereas the other may still be a possibility. A third prospective member was referred to Jess and Tammy by a mutual friend and had intentions of coming to tonight's meeting but was sick. She expressed an interest in joining and will come to our next meeting.

3) **Land Management:**

Tonight's meeting had been well advertised as the annual Land Management meeting, the purpose of which is to welcome public input in PCP and BWNA Land Management planning. The meeting was announced in The Record Enterprise and on the Town website. CC members also made phone calls to abutters during a recent work session. Despite these efforts only Marsh Morgan attended our meeting.

a. Overview of 2010 progress:

Jess summarized work completed on both properties throughout last year. A roadside sign was erected along Rte 3 to increase visibility of the BWNA, and a handrail was installed along one of the bridges during our trail work day. Leah Gray generously donated \$150 to be used toward a BWNA project. This money was spent on sign materials and printing costs for Melissa's photo card project. Lastly, a reprint of the Trail Guide was completed with updates and edits.

Progress was also made at the PCP, where a sign was built and erected at the highly visible corner of the property where Blair Rd. and Rte 175 meet. Trails were marked and cut in an effort to lead visitors through the wooded part of the property and Jules mowed a walking path around the field. An Elm tree was planted as part of a joint Garden Club CCC project and the tree seems to be well established. A parking area was delineated and then changed, the location for which has now been approved by permit. A professional survey was also completed for the entire PCP, boundaries were marked and a map has been registered with the County.

Lastly, our first Adopt-a-Highway cleanup was a success thanks to the help of local volunteers.

b. 2011 Work Day:

May 1st has been set aside as our 2011 work day from 9am-1pm. We will install a fence around the PCP Parking area and walk the CC Adopt-a-Highway route picking up trash. Any PCP/BWNA Trail cleanup work will also be completed. If time allows, The CC would like to lead a walk around the

new PCP trails. Work teams will be sent to accomplish these tasks, hopefully with the help of some volunteers. Jess reported that she asked Carol Lenehan if the Garden Club would like to coordinate any Elm Tree work on the same day. Carol said they had planned to complete their task list before our work day. Jane suggested we invite the Select Board to join us.

c. Poison Ivy @PCP:

Marsh Morgan was asked if he knew of any non-pesticide poison ivy eradication measures. Marsh said that he had tried many of the alternatives including livestock and in his opinion only pesticides will work because it's the only thing that will kill the roots. Tammy said she will ask her dad who has his pesticide license what the best chemical application is to ensure that only the poison ivy plants are affected.

d. Draft Land Use Policy:

The conversation of adopting an official land use policy began with an explanation to Marsh of how we decided at a recent work session to implement the same policy as the BWNA with a few changes. The BWNA policy verbiage was reviewed and all agreed to specifically prohibit the use of motorized wheeled vehicles. Additionally the phrase Daytime Use Only will be included. All other BWNA guidelines will be replicated for PCP aside from those that are not applicable. Our goal is to have the policy posted on a kiosk at the trailhead this year.

A discussion of mowing was had and Marsh noted that killdeer had been observed using the meadow in the past. Jules assured him that the mowing path was completed in early fall, well after the nesting season. Jane told of a conversation she recently had with Forester Tom Hahn who recommended staggering the mowing into thirds to maximize grass height diversity for the benefit of wildlife. Marsh expressed concern that this approach may result in shrubby vegetative growth and present a challenge for future mowing. Jess responded that an every two to three year mowing cycle was the Best management Practice for maintaining habitat for grassland birds recommended by Fish & Game.

4) **Groundwater follow-up:**

How to best circulate the new groundwater brochure was discussed next and three options were considered. It was decided that having brochure copies available as part of the CC display at Town-wide events such as Old Home Day, and Town meetings is a good idea but will likely reach only those who participate. The idea of a mass mailing to all residents was another idea discussed but then dismissed due to both the cost and the risk of the brochure being discarded as junk mail. All agreed that the best approach for getting the brochure read would be to post them in visible places around town. A location list was brainstormed and included the library, Town Clerk's Office, Transfer Station, Waterville Estates Community Center, Campton Cupboard, and Chesley's. It was also suggested to have copies available at the Fire Station, particularly at the monthly breakfast which is well attended.

Jess will ask Melissa to get a printing quote for 300 copies to start, after which time we will decide whether the cost should come out of our regular budget or the Conservation fund. Jess will also remind Melissa of the gift we plan to give Nick Sceggell in appreciation of his assistance.

5) **Northern Pass:**

Marsh asked if the CCC had heard the most recent decision by Northern Pass to go with the preferred route and drop the 5 proposed alternative routes. This would mean Campton lies directly in the path if approved. Events to date were summarized since some CC members were out of state during new developments.

Tammy attended the DOE Public scoping meeting in Plymouth and came away with a renewed sense of interest. She explained how several surrounding town Boards including Conservation Commissions had formally expressed opposition to the project. The comments were heavy on content and detail and raised a number of conservation issues, some of which we have not considered as a group. In particular the use of pesticides and the idea of undermining the Conservation easement process are issues we should be concerned about.

After learning more about the scoping process Tammy proposed that the CC also join in expressing opposition in the form of a letter to the DOE. She learned that if we comment within the allowed time, the DOE is mandated to address every issue raised. The deadline for accepting public comment has been extended 60 days and so we still have time to do so. Jess made a motion for the CC to formally express opposition to Northern Pass in the form of a letter. Jane seconded the motion and all were in favor. Tammy will draft a letter to the DOE and circulate it via e-mail for review. Marsh expressed his preference for burial of the lines if this presents itself as the only alternative, and said it has successfully been done elsewhere.

6) Lot Line Issue:

Jess reported that Anita Lane had recently gone to the Town Office looking for the new PCP survey map and the map was not there. None of the CC members present recalled having copies of the map, though Jules said he would check at home, since he registered the Mylar copy with the County before he recently went away. All agreed that locating the maps is a priority and that if this cannot be done quickly a request for copies should be made ASAP to the surveyor so that we can get one to the Lane's. After the Lane's get a chance to review the survey, we will meet to talk about the boundary line adjustment process, as Anita has expressed an interest in doing so.

7) FYI:

a. PRLAC:

Jane was away for the last PRLAC meeting and so had nothing to report. She presumes PRLAC is moving forward with the river management plan after compiling the public survey results.

b. CHS Walk:

A reminder that the Campton Historical Society together with Steve Hamburg and the CCC will be leading a historical/ecological walk of Bald Mountain on Saturday April 16th. Those interested should meet at the CHS building at 9 am.

c. Other FYI:

Jess was contacted by Michelle Bettes requesting that we pare down our CC materials at the library since no one has checked them out. All agreed that the materials are likely outdated and Jess will follow up on with Michelle.

Tammy will be attending Drinking Water Conference on May 10th in Concord. Her employer is paying for her to attend and she will share what she has learned with the CC.

Our next work session will be on May 18th the focus of which will be to develop a timeline for addressing next year's Town meeting warrant article relative to Conservation Easements.

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm
Next meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster