

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2013; 7pm

Commissioners Present: Jess Halm, Jane Kellogg, Tammy Wooster

Others Present:

Pat Barker and Ann Verow representing the Historical Society and The Campton Garden Club, Audrey Eisenhauer and Leigh Ann Reynolds from the Margaret and H.A. Rey Center, and Carolee Miot from Campton Parks and Recreation/A+ programs.

Meeting Chair: Jane Kellogg

The April meeting is designated as the CCC Land Management meeting each year, with a focus on reviewing and planning for the management and events relative to the Pattee Conservation Park (PCP) and the Blair Woodlands Natural Area (BWNA) properties.

1) **March Minutes:**

Jess made a motion to accept the March meeting minutes and Jane seconded the motion. All were in favor. Tammy will look into the best way to get the approved minutes to Hannah now that she is in a different office.

2) **Membership:**

The CCC accepts Lea Stewart's resignation due to personal issues with regret. We appreciate Lea's high level of involvement over the past two years and will miss her greatly. Lea did express an interest in remaining a "Friend of the CCC" so she can keep up to date with, and support our work.

Jane pointed out that while reviewing the 2012 Town Report, she noticed an inconsistency in the Town Officers and Municipal Employees listing. CCC members are listed as "term expires" and instead should read "appointed to" as is the case for other appointed officials in the report. Something to keep in mind for next year.

While on the subject of membership, Jess asked the others present to please pass along any names of potential new CCC members since we recently went from a 6 to a 4 member commission. Pat Barker said she would ask the Quincy Bog group if anyone is interested.

3) **Annual Properties Management discussion:**

a.) BWNA:

Jane reported that she visited BWNA a few days ago and there was still snow and ice in the parking area, but we should watch for melting so we can open it up

again. Alisoun had recently suggested via e-mail that we call on Jules for this task, since he offered to help with field related work. Jane will call Jules and ask him if he's willing, and one of us can accompany him if he needs help.

Jane also noticed 5 or 6 medium sized trees that need to be cleared from the trail, and some trash needs to be cleaned up. Jess said she would return with a handsaw and see what she can remove. Pat Barker asked if there was any flooding evident on the lower trail to which Jane responded no.

Next, the discussion was turned over to Director Audrey Eisenhauer and Education Coordinator Leigh Ann Reynolds, from the Rey Center. Audrey summarized last year's successful Nature Nights program for the group and said that they would like to run the program again this year with a few changes. Leigh Ann passed out a proposal detailing the program and said that she would like to include a "give back" component this year, that is, to get families and kids involved in a BWNA specific service project. She asked if the CCC had any ideas and the group brainstormed. The first idea was to involve kids in some brushing in of some confusing parts of the trail, making it clear which way to go. Audrey said that this could be done in the context of explaining erosion control to families. Another idea discussed was to create a new display for the kiosk at the trail head, perhaps with artwork and writings from the participating families. Audrey and Leigh Ann loved this idea and thought it would be a great way to end the program, by displaying visual reflections of what was learned. Audrey added that this was exactly in line with the Rey Center's mission of increasing understanding of and participation in art, science, and nature.

Other details discussed were the scheduling, promoting, and funding of Nature Nights. The program will run from June 27-Aug 22 on Thursday evenings from 6-7:30. Last year it ran on Wednesdays which conflicted with the Plymouth free Concerts on the Common series, a popular family event. Audrey said that Nature Nights will be promoted through the usual Rey Center outlets including a brochure, e-newsletter, press release, and website announcement. Jess said that the Chamber is interested in promoting all town programs and can help get the word out. Pat Barker suggested posting a flyer at area campgrounds since families are always looking for new things to do. Pat also offered to get the word out through Quincy Bog. Campton A+ Site Coordinator Carolee Miot said that she would be happy to provide fliers to after school program kids, and that we could also list the event in the Parks and Recreation program schedule. All agreed that the best way to promote the program was through word of mouth.

Last year Nature Nights was funded by donations from businesses and individuals whose dollars were matched by the Rey Center. This year the CCC plans to contribute \$500 from the Conservation Fund, an appropriate expenditure validated by the Local Govt Center. The Rey Center will seek additional sponsorships from community businesses to help cover costs. Audrey will submit an invoice to the CCC so that we can make the expenditure.

Jess asked if a donation will be requested for non-residents attending the program, as was the case last year. Since there were no non-resident participants last year, it was agreed not to suggest a fee which could be a deterrent for some.

Jane mentioned that she recently saw Melissa Greenawalt, who expressed interest in leading a group photography walk at BWNA. Jane will tell Melissa to contact Audrey who agreed to promote the walk.

Consensus was to go forward with the planning of Nature Nights to which all expressed excitement. Jess said that she will mail a copy of last year's Nature Nights summary and this year's proposal to Leah Gray. Audrey and Leigh Ann were thanked by the group and left the meeting.

The BWNA discussion wrapped up with Jane asking Pat Parker if she was willing to maintain the wildflower tags, to which Pat graciously agreed.

b) PCP

Jane asked Carolee how the A+ Pumpkin patch project undertaken last year went, and if there was interest in repeating it this year. Carolee described the project, and how she and Arianne Fosdick transported small groups of 8-10 kids at a time to the PCP field. There they planted a sizable pumpkin patch which she felt was a unique experience for some of the kids who had never planted anything in more than a pot. The kids rose to the occasion and enjoyed the hard work despite the extra challenge of having to bring water in from off site. They also planted sunflower seeds to mark the border of the patch, a few of which came up.

Something began eating the pumpkins before they were harvested, and so the pumpkins were picked and brought back to the school to ripen in the sun. The patch yielded 35-40 pumpkins, which were carved and painted by A+ kids. The kids also wrote stories about their pumpkins, and they were displayed at the Historical Society Halloween event. Carolee said that the project was a perfect partnership between the school/Park and Rec., the CCC, and Historical Society, which helped build a sense of community in the kids.

Carolee said that she would love to see the program continue but is hesitant to commit due to the transitional state of A+ program funding and staffing. She would like to leave the idea open, and encouraged continued communication. Jess said that at the very least we should scatter some more sunflower seeds over the patch as a wildlife food source. Carolee was thanked and left the meeting.

Jane asked Pat Barker and Ann Verow if the Liberty Elm Tree needed any work this year. They responded not to their knowledge, and that the tree seemed to be well established and in good health. It was mentioned that the entire PCP field would be mowed this summer, and the perimeter walking trail would be mowed until then. We will also continue to monitor the poison ivy situation. Jess said that she started some lupine seeds around the PCP sign and hopes that they come up.

Jane closed by explaining that in the past we have entertained many ideas for use of the field such as berry bushes, fruit trees, and other plantings to enhance wildlife habitat, but that such efforts would require outside resources. She asked the Garden Club to be mindful of these possibilities and to be thinking of other ideas for use of the field.

4) **Other**

a . Friends of the Pemi/Livermore Falls Group:

Jane explained the history of the formation of the Livermore Falls Stakeholders Group to Pat and Ann. The Plymouth Rotary Club is now leading the Friends of Livermore Falls initiative and is hosting a meeting on 4/30, from 6-8:30 pm at the PSU Welcome Center. Alisoun will be attending the meeting as the CCC representative. The mission of the Friends Group is to try and change the culture around Livermore Falls in a positive way by bringing attention to this historic and beautiful resource, to discourage some of the destructive and illegal activity that has been occurring there, and to make the area a more family friendly place.

Also planned, is an upcoming group paddle down the Pemi, and a public relations campaign. Jane added that there are over 60 people who are on an e-mail list getting messages about this effort including reps from various state agencies, law enforcement, and PSU. Chief Tobine and the Historical Society were recently added to the list. Pat expressed interest in being on this list and Tammy said she would forward her the e-mail string. Jess said that Jim Aguiar, who is on the Parks and Recreation Committee at the state level, is interested in creating a trail system connecting the Livermore and Blair State Forests. Jim recently offered to the Select Board to serve as a Campton representative for the Friends Group and will be attending meetings.

b . Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup:

Sunday, April 21st is the date of our next roadside cleanup in celebration of Earth Day which is April 22nd. We will meet at the PCP parking area at 2 pm. Jess will contact DOT to arrange for the pickup of bags and vests. Jess will also submit an announcement of the cleanup in the Talk of the Towns section of the Record Enterprise, inviting others to join us.

c . Conservation Matters Articles:

Jess provided an update of the proposed series of conservation related articles to be submitted to the Record Enterprise by local Conservation Commissions. She said that Plymouth and Holderness are in, and Alexandria liked the idea but had limited

time. Brendan Berube, editor of the Record Enterprise, approved the project to be run as a monthly column. Jess said that she is still trying to get CC contacts for other towns served by the paper, and when she does, details such as what week of the month to run the column, how many words it should be, and a rotating submission schedule can be finalized. Jess said ideally we would have 6 participating towns, each being responsible for a column two months of the year. Jane said she will forward a different Rumney contact to Jess.

d . National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative:

Tammy reported that April 27th is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, where people can drop off unused prescription drugs at various locations to be disposed of properly. The initiative is primarily promoted as a program to curtail prescription drug abuse, but there is also an environmental component, as drug contamination of groundwater is a growing problem. The two local drop-off sites listed on the Dept. of Justice website are the Thornton and Plymouth Police Departments. Tammy said that there are down-loadable posters for anyone to use to get the word out and that she will print and post one at the Campton Thornton Transfer Station. Jess will also write something up for the Talk of The Towns letting people know of the event.

e. Work Session Planning:

Jane, Jess and Tammy met on March 21st to work on reorganizing CCC files in preparation for moving to the new Town Office. We will wait until the Select Board is settled in before moving our materials. As far as future work planning, it was decided that we will use our next business meeting on May 8th to finish our Friends of the CCC list as a top priority, so that we can start electronically communicating our work. All will bring laptops, and we will designate some time to work with the CCC e-mail and Contacts functions. Tammy suggested that we also look at the CCC web page as a group and make a list of edits and updates for Beverly. We still need to find out how to get web access from the new Town Office, and expect these and building access details should be forthcoming. Jane said that another future project idea is to reorganize and update our PCP and BWNA property files.

f . Northern Pass:

Jane reported that George Wright went to last Monday's Select Board meeting and requested that the Board fill out a Federal Section 106 form. Other towns and entities have done this, and the form serves as a formal request to be a consulting party to the Northern Pass permitting process. The Select Board agreed to do this and Ann Marie is filling the form out. The CC is supportive of this, and wonder whether we can also sign onto the form, or complete one of our own. Jane will look into this

further.

Meeting adjourned: 8:47pm
Next Meeting : May 8, 2013
(New time 7:30 pm, Jess will chair)

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster