

Campton Conservation Commission Minutes

August 13, 2008 7:30 pm

Commissioners present: Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, Jane Kellogg, Lisa Doner, Jules Doner, Tammy Wooster (Jess Halm was absent but sent along notes/comments to include in our meeting)

1. CSPA Workshop Planning:

- a. Who's coming/who else to invite: Tammy reported that the workshop is set to take place Aug. 20th, 6 pm @ Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest. Invitations have been sent to surrounding towns CC's and Planning Boards. This workshop is also open to the public. Jason Aube, CSPA Outreach Specialist from DES will be visiting Mirror Lake before then to decide on a field site. To date, only 7 people have responded to the invitation but more are expected since Jason is helping to get the word out. Jane reported that someone from the Planning Board knew of at least 12 who will attend.
- b. Food/drinks: All agreed that we should provide some light fare for those who may not have time for dinner before the workshop. Jane offered to bring cheese & crackers and Melissa will bring vegetables/dip from the Plymouth farmers market. Tammy will bring something sweet and check on the drink mix supply at HB.

2. **GIS info. Session update:** Jane reported that the Planning Board seemed open to the idea of a short GIS presentation at their Sept. 2nd work session. Melissa has not yet heard back from Michelle Therrien of Meredith as to whether she can present her GIS work to date. Jess reported (via notes) that Vanessa Jones of NH Audubon is willing to come and discuss her GIS work in other towns. Since the Planning Board is only willing to devote 15-20 min. of their work session to this presentation, all agreed that maybe we should only invite one of the planned presenters. Melissa will follow up with Michelle and try to secure only her presence for Sept. 2nd. Jane will contact Mae to request that we be put on the PB agenda.

3. Permit application follow-up:

- a. Bishop application: This Beaver Brook Rd. permit application for culvert work has been granted. There was some discussion/question regarding a condition list on the permit which Jane assured was standard practice.
- b. Alteration of Terrain permit update: Jess reported that as of Aug. 9th, the commission still had not received the file from Brian Donovan of Pike Industries that Mae had called to request on our behalf. Jane reported that she had also called Brian Donovan requesting application materials and received no reply. As a result, on July 24th Jane and Jess drafted

and sent a letter to Craig Rennie of the DES Alteration of terrain program. The letter stated that the commission had not been able to view the accompanying material filed with the application by Brian Donovan and so is unable to make specific technical comments. The letter went on to relay comments /concerns that were shared by all cc members at our last meeting upon first viewing the application reply from DES requesting comment. Jane reported that after sending the letter to DES she was approached by Greg Jencks who claimed that the letter contained some inaccuracies. In particular, the letter stated that material was being removed from the Jencks property over the last 2 years under a town permit. Greg Jencks told Jane that it had only been a period of 4-5 months. He was also in disagreement over a statement in the letter that expressed potential groundwater impacts to dozens of residents in the area. He said he only had a few neighbors. We discussed that it is impossible to ascertain the exact number of potential residents affected without knowledge of subsurface flow paths and that the actual number could even exceed dozens. Lastly, Greg Jencks questioned why the letter was sent to DES when last month's minutes reported that the commission would take no action until additional material was received. We agreed that it was appropriate for the letter to be sent to DES in light of several failed attempts to acquire the information needed to respond in more detail. We then had a lengthy discussion about how we conduct CC business between meetings. Since all of our members cannot be fully involved in every business task in real time, we agreed that the most effective way to correspond between meetings is via e-mail to the best of our ability.

- c. DOT/Wetlands Bureau bank stabilization memo: The commission received notice of a change in a DOT proposal to stabilize a section of bank along the Mad River between exits effort to prevent RR abutment washouts. Due to a lack of expertise and money, Dot will be adding more rip-rap.
- d. New CC mail received since agenda was made: DES Wetlands Bureau sent a copy of an Emergency Authorization Verification issued to Tommy Johnson of Owl St. The recent heavy rains had washed out a culvert and some earth under a storage unit on his property to the extent that the unit was hanging out over the road. He was authorized to backfill the problem area.

4. **Eastern Corners off-roading issue update:**

- a. Who owns: Melissa reported that after viewing town lot maps she determined that the ORV damaged property along the Beebe is owned by Yankee Forestland, a timber company out of Lyme, NH.
- b. Survey of activity along Beebe River: Melissa has biked around the area and noticed extensive four-wheeler activity, and believes people are actually driving over the boulder and past the gate. Lisa also visited the area and shared some photos of before and after the

recent heavy rains. There is new damage, where rainwater has further eroded soils in the vehicle tracks. Sediment plumes are visible where the tracks cross the river.

- c. Next steps: It is believed that logging activity has ceased on this land and that Yankee may not be aware of the ORV activity. Melissa will draft a letter to Yankee detailing what we have observed along with our conversation with DES and their recommendations. Lisa offered to send her photo file to be attached to the letter. It is our hope that as the property owner, Yankee will take the lead in resolving this issue, especially since they have the heavy equipment resources to create a barrier.

5. **Groundwater Protection Collaborative with CVP:**

- a. Next meeting: Jess and Tammy attended a July 16th CVP meeting to gauge interest in creating a groundwater protection ordinance for the town. The idea was well received and the CVP committed to attending our Sept 10th CC meeting to further this discussion.
- b. Preparation: The OEP has an online Model Groundwater Protection ordinance document : <http://www.des.state.nh.us/DWSP/ModelOrdinance.pdf>

CC members will review this document in preparation for our next meeting. Jane and Gary Benedix also have a hard copy of this document. In the meantime, Tammy will investigate grant money possibilities and find out what state classification if any that Campton's stratified drift aquifer falls under.

- c. Ace of Space: Since we have the CVP attending our next meeting, it would be a good time to discuss/exchange ideas on an Ace of Space renter education campaign.

6. **Campton Public Library update:** Jules made a motion to approve a payment of \$5.60 from the misc./supplies fund to the CPL for materials reimbursement. Jane seconded the motion. Jess reported that the librarian Fred Johnson generously did most of the CCC library cataloging. Jess also suggested that there is some work remaining, perhaps labeling CCC resources by category. We also have possession of a new CD "2008 Guide to Federal Conservation Programs" which will be added to the CCC library. Everyone signed their names for a Thank You note that Melissa will write to Fred to be sent along with payment.

7. **FYI Items:**

- a. Thank You Letter: the CCC received a letter from resident Sherrill Babler who recently visited the BWNA for the first time. She enjoyed it so much she sent a letter acknowledging this important town resource and thanking the CCC for its management.

- b. Lake Protection Hearing Aug.26th: For more info: visit www.des.nh.gov/pdf/nhdes-wd-08-8.pdf
- c. Current Use/Cost of Open Space info for LD: Jess found some literature on the benefits of Current Use lands in town tax structures which she thought might particularly interest Lisa who has wondered in what ways towns benefit from open space lands.
- d. Protected River Signs Update: Jess reported that DOT approved the Blair Bridge crossing signs which can be erected after construction work some time in Sept. The signs will need to be picked up in approx. 2 weeks in Concord and then delivered to the road agent.
- e. CCC Space in Town office: What to do with the now empty shelf was discussed. Jane will ask Chris Kelley, who donated the shelf, if he would like it back. If not, we looked at other potential spaces/uses for it. Melissa will talk to Anne-Marie about it. We also agreed a sign should be posted in the front office informing visitors of the CCC library move.
- f. Ed Pattee Property: Jules reported there are approx. 12 acres of land for sale at intersection of Rte 175 and Blair Bridge Rd. It was owned by recently deceased Ed Pattee and his family wants to sell the property. Jules said the asking price is around \$210,000, and wondered if the town had any interest in picking it up. We discussed the property's value as open space and agreed to look further into it. Jules will speak to the realtor Laurie Coffin and the Owner's family.
- g. Bump Bridge Work: Lisa reported that the Bump Bridge is slated for around \$165,000 of needed repair work. The wooden footings are in the river and are rotting away. It has become a time sensitive issue and monies may be taken from Blair Bridge funds. If this is the case, Blair Bridge may then be eligible for LCHIP money as a historical site.
- h. Conference Announcement: The Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife Conference will be held Sept. 21-24, 2008 @ the Inns at Mill Falls, Meredith, NH. For more info. contact Cathy Goodman (603) 271-3226 or cgoodman@dot.state.nh.us

Meeting adjourned: 9:38pm

Next meeting:

Wed., Sept. 10th 7:30pm

(joint mtg. with CVP)