

Campton Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2007; Campton Town Office; 7:30 pm

Members Present: Jules Doner, Lisa Doner, Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, Jane Kellogg

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 pm.

FYI Items:

- Planning Board Updates: Jane mentioned that Steve Hackett had approached May at the Planning Board meeting regarding dredging Campton Pond, which has been and off-and-on discussion. May advised that Steve call Jane; when he does so, Jane will invite him to come to a Conservation Commission meeting. Jules asked what the rationale behind dredging the pond is. Jane answered that many residents remember swimming, boating, and fishing in the pond 30 or 40 years ago, when it was deeper, so dredging may improve the recreational aspect of the pond, in many residents' eyes. It was agreed that the Commission should be part of any conversation that ensues regarding dredging, particularly in regards to the current habitat value of the pond. Lisa suggested that the dam is serving as a flood control, and that siltation may adversely impact the dam's ability to control flooding. She suggested that further study might be warranted regarding the ecological and hydrologic impacts of dredging, as well as whether the dam is old and needs work. Melissa thought that the current dam was built in the 30's or 40's. The Conservation Commission would endorse such a study, but there was a question about where funding would come from, as there was uncertainty about whether the Select Board had ever discussed the dam or the Pond.
- Blair Woodland Natural Area: Melissa roped off the parking lot for the winter a few days ago; she noted that this is ideally a two-person job. She will also write up a notice to the Record Enterprise stating that BWNA is still open to the public for the winter, and that visitors may use the Town parking area near the Blair Bridge or the Country Cow parking lot.
- BWNA Sign Update: Supplies to make the trail signs have been purchased; the total amount came to \$160. Leah Gray, the property donor, had offered to purchase the supplies for BWNA signage, so the above amount will be reimbursed. Although the posts will not be installed until spring, the Commission could set up a work day to complete the lettering on the signs during the winter. Lisa asked about the sign at the entrance along Route 3. Jess had previously contacted the state about requirements (size, distance from the road, etc.). Jules suggested that a sign could be erected on a tree to obtain the proper setback. Although attaching signs to trees is typically not recommended, it might be the best solution in this case, to keep the sign out of the way of plows and so forth.
- Watershed Conference Update: Jane picked up a report at the November 17 conference in Concord about the economic value of clean water in NH. The report indicated that a perceived decline in water quality impacts communities

through lost revenue from tourism and so forth. The report and several other are available for public viewing at the CCC display at the Town Office.

- Other FYI Items:
 - Next month, the Pemi River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC) will host an informational meeting outlining the new guidelines for the Shoreland Protection Act. This could impact Campton, as the new rules apply to more water bodies in Campton.
 - Jules mentioned that an area along Eastern Corners Road has been extensively logged very close to a small stream, leaving little buffer. He voiced concern that the lack of a riparian buffer is in violation of state regulations, as well as about the impact that a clear cut and lack of buffer have on streamflow in the area. He asked whether there is any action to take. Jane suggested that Steve Kessler, the compliance officer for the state, could outline the proper action to take. Lisa and Melissa concurred, and Jules will contact Steve.
 - Lisa brought up the warrant article addressing climate change that was passed at the Town Meeting in March. She mentioned that many towns throughout the state have formed Energy Committees in response to the article, and many towns have rolled this committee into the Conservation Commission. Was Campton working on forming such a committee? Jane answered that, no, she had not heard of anything to date, and suggested that the Selectboard be contacted to put it on their agenda. The Commission unanimously agreed that an Energy Committee would be most effective for Campton if it contained representatives from all branches of municipal groups (eg—Building Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Selectboard, Zoning Board, etc.) to best coordinate among town entities. Lisa will research to see what other towns are doing.

Brochure Update:

- The commission reviewed the brochure idea in progress. It should contain information about who we are as a commission, our mission, contact information, and areas that we can assist residents and other homeowners with. These may include who to contact for septic problems, links and contacts for sustainable lawn care/landscaping, and so forth. Lisa suggested outlining the Conservation Commission's role in permitting, such as wetland permits, culvert construction, and others. The target date for distributing the brochure is early March, before Town Meeting, so the brochure should ideally be finished by late February. A work session to further develop the brochure was set for January 7 at 7 PM.

Budget Items:

- 2007 budget: Expenditures for 2007 are categorized as follows: Dues=\$200; Education/Conferences=\$55; Postage/Supplies/Printing=\$300; BWNA

Management=\$95; Misc=\$50. Total Expenditures = \$650. The Commission had budgeted \$850.

- 2008 budget proposal: The budget for 2008 remained the same as in 2007. This would set aside a small fund to cover dues, upcoming conferences (particularly if new members join next year), BWNA maintenance that may come up, mailings, and any printing costs. Melissa moved to accept the budget as proposed; Lisa seconded. All approved the 2008 budget, which will now go to the Selectboard.

Annual Report 2008:

- Jane summarized the main points from last year's report, and the commission brainstormed additions to this year's. Jane will work on a draft and send it for review and add to.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 pm.

The next meeting is January 9, 2008, 7:30 pm.