

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2009; 7:30pm

Members Present: Jess Halm, Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, Jane Kellogg, Tammy Wooster

Others Present: Ron Reynolds

1) GIS Town Mapping:

Ron Reynolds gave an update on GIS work that he and May have completed. He recently attended a GIS workshop where he learned of some free GIS software. Ron showed us a pie chart and map detailing Campton Conservation Lands generated from the GRANIT database. He noted that the database needs updating to include the PCP and BWNA lands, and asked if he could take on this task. Updating would involve using the deeds and tax maps to complete some simple paperwork.

Melissa added that the two large parcels in the SE corner of town should also be included in the list of conservation lands. Jane will check with Roger LaRochelle to confirm the identity and status of these two parcels, and will assist Ron with updating the information which we will all review at our Nov. meeting. Ron said that he and May have been working in a designated map room with a donated computer and welcome CCC members to join in the learning effort. Jess proposed that we dedicate a work session to GIS learning. Jane noted that it would be most productive if we had a particular project to focus on. All agreed and wholeheartedly thanked Ron (and May) for all of their great work.

2) BWNA:

a. Sign Progress:

Ron and Jane have completed the letter routing on the new BWNA signs. Tammy will complete the sanding/staining/painting of the signs and there was some discussion and agreement on color preferences. Ron and Jane also brought along an ornate sign bracket they had designed and made out of band iron. The bracket was unique in that it framed a stylized leaf which was assembled with the help of Craig Keeney's welding expertise. All agreed that both the sign and bracket were beautiful and thanked Ron again for his work. Ron left the meeting.

b. Parking lot:

Jess reported that she learned from Dirt Designs that the bulk of the expense of a load of fill was for trucking costs and so using less material would not reduce the quote. The cost of the project exceeds Leah Gray's gift amount which was one of the intended uses for the money. Jess proposed that we postpone this project which was agreed to by all.

Discussion continued of how to best honor and put to use Leah's generous gift, aside from the new sign expenses. Melissa offered to create a set of photo gift cards showcasing BWNA images that she has captured and archived over time. Melissa said the gift cards could potentially generate funds and would increase visibility of the area. Everyone loved the idea and Jess proposed that the first cards produced should be sent as Thank you notes to Leah, Ron Reynolds, and Craig Keeney. Melissa will call Leah to ask if she supports the idea and if so will get to work on some prototypes. Melissa will look into reprinting BWNA Trail guides while at the same time considering the most cost effective way to produce the cards.

3). PCP:

a. Driveway Permit:

Jules was not in attendance and so could not provide an update on the status of the parking area. Jess will follow up with Jules.

b. 9/25 meeting with Dave Falkenham:

Jess provided a quick summary of the meeting with CCC members, County Forester Dave Falkenham, and Clint Lane. Dave was encouraging in the use of the property for recreation. Since the last meeting, Bob Hardy from the Forests and Lands had discouraged the CCC's request to begin a managed trail system in the Town Forest. Although this was a disappointment, all agreed that this response was likely due to liability issues. The parking area plan will move forward.

Dave sent a follow up letter to the CCC documenting his management recommendations for the forested part of the PCP, and Jane read the letter aloud. Some of the points discussed in the letter included thinning of the forest stand, and the future potential for a small scale timber sale. He pointed out that we could integrate trail building in with a timber sale, or alternatively, hand cut a loop trail providing walkers the opportunity to witness an un-managed forest in its natural state of development.

Finally, Dave provided a directory of consulting foresters and offered his assistance in flagging trees for the purpose of timber stand improvement work. Jess will look over the list of Foresters, and narrow it down to a few to contact before next months meeting. Jane suggested some next steps might be to gauge the foresters' level of interest, determine what costs may be associated with timber management, and learn what time frame we are dealing with.

c. Meeting with the Lanes:

Jane gave a briefing of a visit she and Tammy had with new Pattee House owners Clint and Anita Lane. The meeting was amicable and lots of work at the house was in progress. . Jane mentioned that the CCC intends to lift the small shed on town property off of the ground and prop it somehow before winter. Clint offered up the use of some cinder blocks which he had piled behind the house for use in plantings. The Lane's talked about their interest in mowing the open area behind the house and Clint asked if he could use the space between the telephone poles to build a shelter for his mower.

Jane started a conversation relative to where the lot lines are believed to be and noted that the SE corner boundary marker was missing. She pointed out that both the telephone poles and the back field were town property, and that it was likely the pile of bricks straddled the lot line as well. Jane suggested that the CCC and Lane's walk the property together with the deed in hand so that everyone is clear on the boundary locations. Clint said that he had a measuring wheel and would be happy to walk the line himself. Jane and Tammy told the Lane's of our management goals for the PCP and invited them to join the 9/25 walk with the County Forester. The meeting ended with Jane encouraging the Lane's to put any ideas, concerns, or requests they have in writing, such as their wish to maintain mowing of the area behind the house.

d. Mowing Reports:

Jules was not in attendance so the report on his mowing costs research was postponed. Melissa consulted the Cooperative Extension's BMP's for managing grasslands for birds and gave a brief summary. It is recommended that mowing be postponed until after August 1st for nesting birds and even later to allow prolonged blooming of asters and goldenrods for butterfly use. If the field is not to be used for hay, then it is only necessary to mow every 2-3 years. Jess said that she felt it was important to keep the Kidneys informed of our mowing intentions. Jane pointed out that we can communicate our general PCP management plans in the Town Annual Report.

Jess said she'd like to see some wildflower seed spread to introduce some plant diversity. Melissa is still enthusiastically in favor of mowing a perimeter walking path. Tammy and Jane supported both ideas.

One last PCP item discussed was the upcoming Chamber of Commerce pumpkin carving contest. Tammy asked if anyone had seen it advertised to which all responded no. Melissa will remind the Chamber about spreading the word through the school.

4. Wetland Restoration Project Brainstorming:

All agreed to table this item due to the late hour.

5. CCC Website Updates:

This subject was brought to Melissa's attention when the NHACC inquired about contact information. A few housekeeping items Melissa will follow up on are updating CCC member terms, removing Lisa's contact information, removing an outdated annual report, and adding the PCP to the list of conservation lands.

6) 2009-2010 Budget:

Jess shared a memo that was circulated to Town Dept. heads by the Board of Selectmen. There has been a change in the budgeting process to include a meeting with Ann Marie prior to presenting budgets for review and approval.

Jess reported that we have a \$305.00 balance in our 2008/2009 budget. Line by line discussion ensued and it was agreed upon that the total budget for 2009/2010 be proposed at \$1,100.00. This amounts to an overall decrease in next year's budget by \$50.00. This figure was arrived at by decreasing the conference/education line item by \$25.00 and by reducing the Misc. line item by \$25.00. All other items are to remain the same. Melissa will ask if she can meet with Ann Marie in lieu of an entire separate meeting time with the whole commission.

7. FYI:

a. Minutes Protocol:

Tammy updated the group on a meeting she had with Hannah regarding meeting procedural details. At the first of several Pattee House Sale meetings a motion was made to seal all subsequent meeting minutes relative to the House Sale until after the closing. It was assumed that this one motion/vote would suffice; however, the correct procedure would be to make a motion at the beginning of each meeting to go into a Non-Public session, citing the specific relevant RSA. The motion would then be followed by a roll call and recorded vote. At the end of each meeting another motion and vote should be

made to seal the minutes. Hannah also recommended that we vote on the acceptance of the last meeting's minutes at the beginning of each business meeting. All agreed to adopt this procedure. Tammy noted that Hannah was extremely helpful and that she acknowledged this was the first CCC property purchase/sale and a new experience for all.

b. Planning Board/PRLAC

Jane reported that she has no additional information about an upcoming DES streams rulemaking hearing other than it will be on 11/10 at the Pease Library @6-8pm.

c. Bog Rd Gravel Pit:

Jane described some recent communication with Pike Industries and Greg Jencks about the Bog Road gravel pit. She praised the timely reclamation work that had been done which involved grading and reseeding but wondered about a sizable hole in the bottom of the pit which appeared to have been dug down to the water table. She has since learned that the pond had been dug as part of the reclamation, which apparently is not an issue unless it directly involves a wetland, or will drain into a wetland, stream or other water body.

d. Possible wetlands/Septic Issue:

Jane said that we should be aware of an issue involving a potential failed septic near a wetland. Charlie Brosseau, Craig Keeney and Health Officer JD McGarr will be visiting the site as part of the junkyard cleanup effort and will address the septic as well.

e. Ellsworth Hill Conservation Inquiry Update:

Jess provided an Ellsworth Hill landowner with the contact information for PBLT Lands Committee Chair Charlie Chandler. The landowner had asked the CCC for assistance in planning a land conservation strategy. The landowner asked Jess to contact Charlie to give him the heads up and some background information. Jess did so and Charlie looks forward to hearing from the Ellsworth resident and encouraged the CCC to stay involved.

f. Eastern Corners Driveway Update:

Jane suggested a follow up visit to the site and asked for accompaniment. She thought that Jules might want to come along and will ask him.

g. Upcoming Events: NHACC meeting: Nov 7th, 8 am @ the Rundlett Middle School in Concord. Tammy may attend.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:38 pm
Next meeting, November 11, 2009 7pm (NOTE Time Change)

Respectfully Submitted,

Tamera E. Wooster
Secretary, Campton Conservation Commission

