

**Campton Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 9, 2009; 7:30 pm**

**Present:** Jess Halm, Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, Jane Kellogg, Jules Doner, Tammy Wooster

**1. GIS Brainstorming:**

We had planned to set aside some time at this meeting to discuss future GIS project ideas. Jane reported that Mae Brosseau and Ron Reynolds are still making great progress working with and learning GIS. In the event that they wish to have new projects to work on, we generated a list of things to begin compiling waypoint locations for. The list includes vernal pools, invasive plants, septic systems, land use/land cover types, stonewalls and cellar holes. Jane mentioned that the town office now has a map room. All agreed that it would be ideal to have a station in the future for GIS work sessions.

**2. Pumpkin Carving Update:**

Carol O'Neil sent Jess an e-mail confirming that Saturday, Oct.24<sup>th</sup> will be the Chamber of Commerce pumpkin carving contest and display. The contest will be the same as last year but, hopefully with more participation. Jules asked what the pumpkins are set on for display and Jess said that she and Ian provided timbers last year.

**3. PCP:**

a. House Sale:

Jess reported that The Pattee House closing took place Aug 31<sup>st</sup> and the house is now sold. The money was deposited into the General Fund for now, until the March Town Meeting where a vote to transfer the money back into the Conservation Fund is required. The exact amount of the sale was \$102,061.00 minus \$282.24 for electricity and septic work expenditures. Jane said that we should be in communication with Selectmen in December to coordinate the Warrant Article particulars. In the meantime, Mary Durgin will research the best interest earning vehicle for the money.

b. Driveway Permit:

The driveway permit has been approved and we were all pleased with the quick turnaround time. Jane will create a file for the permit to reside in the CCC file cabinet. The next step is to remove stones, grade, and fill the driveway entrance where it meets Blair Road. Jules will talk to Ann Marie about enlisting the help of Butch Bain for this work. Jane noted that the permit specifies a 10 inch drop requirement over a distance of 20 feet from Blair Road. Presumably this is for drainage away from the road. Jess suggested that Jules provide a copy of the permit to Butch. All agreed that it would be desirable to have this work done before the 10/24 pumpkin carving display so the parking area can be utilized. Jules asked how we would pay for any needed fill and Jane said the money should come out of property maintenance expenditures.

c. Mowing Revisited:

The CCC was unable to locate a cheaper bid than the one proposed by Lee Kidney for mowing the Pattee field. The mowing has been completed and Lee will be submitting an invoice to Ann Marie for \$300.00. Jess said that it was worthy of mention that Lee detailed his expenses and said that he would have charged \$500 if the work had not been done for the town. Jess suggested that since we under-budgeted this project we need to research and refine our management plan for the field for 2010. Melissa suggested that we only mow a path around the field. The question of whether the field could be mowed biannually was asked. Jess said that she had learned the cost of renting the mowing equipment from MB Tractor was \$350.00 delivered and proposed that we could do the work ourselves in the future. It was decided that a sub-committee is needed to further answer these questions. Melissa will research BMP's for grassland management, and Jules will look into mowing options. Jess referred Melissa to UNH contact Matt Tarr.

d. House Lot Boundary:

It was discussed that now would be a good time to meet and greet the new owners of the Pattee House to establish a neighborly relationship. Jane will contact the Lane's and suggest a meeting with the commission to discuss our conservation goals for the PCP and mutually confirm property boundaries.

**4) 9/25 Meeting with Dave Falkenham:**

A meeting has been set with the new Grafton County Cooperative Extension Forester Dave Falkenham to discuss forest management relative to the proposed Blair State Forest trails. The meeting will be 9/25 at 9am. Jess sent another e-mail to Division of Forests and Lands Bob Hardy to inquire about the status of our trail proposal. No response to date.

**5) BWNA:**

a. More Quotes for Parking Area:

Jules reported getting a quote in the amount of \$1,300.00 for reconstituted asphalt fill at the BWNA parking area. Jess got a quote from Dirt Designs which included grading and 1.5" crushed bank run fill for \$600.00. Both quotes were for 16 cubic yards. Reasons for the discrepancy in quotes were discussed and all agreed that we should go with locally known Dirt Designs. It was decided that it may not be necessary to use 16 cu. yards of fill, rather we could improve lot conditions with less material. Jess will follow up with Dirt Designs to see what can be done, if anything to lower the price.

Jane and Ron are leading the roadside sign making effort and Jane needed some clarification on wording and size preferences. It was decided that the sign will read: Blair Woodland Natural Area with the words Blair Woodland being smaller in size. The word "Entrance" will also be on the sign and be small in size.

#### **6) Ellsworth Hill Conservation Inquiry and Site Visit:**

On 8/25, Jess and Jules visited an Ellsworth Hill resident who had inquired about land conservation options. He and his wife were in the process of writing their wills and are now acting upon their wishes to protect their land from future development. The land is sizable and is comprised of some orchard acreage, Christmas trees, and water features. The land is in current use, and has a Forest Stewardship Plan. Jess and Jules were truly impressed with the landowners' intentions which were communicated as the desire to establish the land as an educational resource for the town.

Jess referred to the checklist Jane developed for the conservation packet and all agreed that Jules and Jess had covered the general procedures well, including taking photos, and ensuring confidentiality. Jane mentioned that the Pemi Baker Land Trust would likely be very interested in this property and that it would be a logical next step to put them in touch with the landowner, if willing. Jules asked if the PBLT as the easement holder would also do the monitoring. Jane did not know but suggested we could potentially play a monitoring role if needed. Jess will provide contact info to the landowner for the lands committee of the PBLT and offer our assistance in setting up a meeting if the landowner so desires.

#### **7) Budget Update:**

This item will be placed on the October meeting agenda. Jess learned from Ann Marie that we have approx. \$300.00 left in this year's budget. Our biggest potentially remaining expense will be reg. fees for the upcoming NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions meeting.

#### **8) LD Resignation:**

Melissa passed around a resignation letter from Lisa Doner, who now resides in Plymouth and so cannot serve on the Campton CC. Melissa made a motion to accept the resignation which was seconded by Jules. All were regretfully in favor. Melissa will get a card for all to sign.

#### **9) FYI:**

##### **a. Planning Board/PRLAC:**

Jane reported that the only thing worthy of mention was a revisiting of the Pike Industries gravel pit. Hanna received a complaint which when followed up on it was discovered that a required silt fence was absent between the pit area and the wetland. Pike agreed to either install a silt fence or regrade the piled topsoil back to the original grade, depending on the stage of removal in that area.

b. Upcoming Events:

- i. No official word on the date of the Annual NHACC mtg., but it is presumed to be in Early Nov. Details to follow.
- ii. UNH Road Scholar Program: Invasive Species Workshop for road crews Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>. Jess gave Jules the info. To pass along th Butch Bain
- iii. North Country Council annual meeting: Will be Oct 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm, at the Attitash Grand Summit Hotel. RSVP by Sept 25<sup>th</sup>.

c. Groundwater Project Status:

Tammy reported that she received an e-mail from DES Groundwater Protection Specialist Pierce Rigrod. Pierce is following up from our meeting several months ago and has reiterated his willingness to assist us in the reclassification of our aquifer. CCC members all agreed that without CVP leadership we cannot move forward. Tammy will communicate this to Pierce.

**Meeting Adjourned 9:55pm**  
**Next Meeting October 14, 2009; 7:30 pm**