

**Campton Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 4, 2010; 7pm**

**Members Present:** Jessica Halm, Jules Doner, Jane Kellogg

**Others present:** Nick Sceggell (Granite State Water Assn.), Pat Barker, Suzanne Silvestri (Campton Garden Club), George Wright, Jim Aguiar (Campton residents)

**1) Minutes of the March meeting:** approved

**2) Land Management:** (yearly review and discussion about conservation lands managed by the commission)

Blair Woodland Natural Area

Jess gave a brief overview of the land donation history, and focus as a natural area. The new property sign installed in 2009 was complimented. A morning scheduled for maintenance work on the trails is 8:30 on Sat., April 24. More details will be coordinated through email, but plans are for general spring trail work, and to install a handrail on the first bridge, as has been requested by some regular older visitors to the property. Leah Gray (original property donor) has also mentioned checking some of the older trees for possible state Big Tree Contest. Measurements will be made on trail maintenance day. Jess also noted many positive notes left in the log book by visitors to the trails. Of particular note is Pat Barker's regular noting of wildflowers and other natural observations. Jess asked whether Pat would be willing to continue with her marking wildflowers with the small tags, as she had done for several years. Pat agreed to continue. She also noted about need for clean up along the river so wildflowers and the rare wood betony would have a better chance of surviving. Jim Aguiar asked about parking lot maintenance in winter and whether the town helped with that. It was explained why we do not keep it open in winter (upward slope to re-enter roadway, poor visibility with snow banks, icing would need sanding budgeted), but the trails remain open and there is usage by those on snowshoes, folks walking in from elsewhere.

Pattee Conservation Park

Again, Jess gave a brief description of the actions and consideration made so far for this town property since its purchase in 2008: naming contest, conversations about leaving the field as a natural grassland instead of regular mowing, periodic mowing to keep brush and trees from taking hold, possible mowed path around the edges for walkers, forest walks with county forester and local forester to discuss forestry management considerations, and various planting uses being considered in the future for open areas (blueberries, wildflower patches, town nursery area, community garden)

Suggestions, questions that came up during the meeting: PCP

If wildflower plantings were being considered, it was asked whether perhaps the Campton Garden Club would be interested as a collaborator. There did seem to be interest.

P Barker suggested there is also a Campton resident(Chris Mattrick) who works at the WMNF on natural plantings around their new headquarters. Perhaps he would be a good resource for ideas.

There were questions about the state of the Blanchard House. It has been cleaned out and would have potential use as some sort of storage shed or the roof could be a source of rainwater into a rain barrel if water was needed for gardening projects. There was some discussion about the old well on the property, which is believed to be non functioning at this point.

In discussing the forested section of the PCP(less than 5 acres), Jim asked about the goal for the forest, as there was mention of foresters having helped to assess long term timber value. There was some discussion that since the piece is very small, loggers usually seek larger forests; it may be difficult to get much value from timber. Long term, it may be better to focus on educational and recreational values for the forest. These decisions don't need to be made soon, so the consensus was to leave all options open at this point.

There were questions about snowmobile use on the field. Usage seems to be limited to a few neighbors since the main snowmobile trail along the river has no direct connection to the Pattee field. It was also noted that winter snowmobile use is generally seen as non invasive to the natural ground cover because of snow covering, and most conservation groups don't have a concern about vegetation disturbance from snowmobile use for this reason.

Suzanne introduced the Garden Club's suggestion for an elm tree donation to the town from the Arbor Foundation. The tree would be about 25 feet tall, would be planted by the Arbor Foundation, after which there would be a plaque installed and a dedication ceremony. The club had discussed various locations for the tree around town, and thought perhaps the Pattee corner might be a good place for an elm tree to thrive. There were questions raised about suitability of soils for the tree. Suzanne would check on this. There was general consensus among the commissioners this would be a nice addition to the property, but since the whole commission was not able to be present, there were procedural questions about timeline and how to proceed. Suggestions were made that the tree could be accepted, planted (appropriate road set-back, etc.) by the Arbor Foundation in early summer, with dedication made during Old Home Day. Jess said she would compose a letter to inform the Selectmen (& Old Home Day committee, and Historical Society also) of the general plan.

The town road agent has not been able to use his equipment yet to remove the rocks from the old wall, where the entry to the parking area will go. Jess asked Jules to be the contact with Butch Bain to accomplish this task when possible.

Visitors Barker, Silvestri, and Wright then left the meeting.

### **3) Groundwater Reclassification efforts, continued:**

Nick gave a general overview of the project for the benefit of Jim Aguiar. Jim asked if there are concerns at the present time about the town's groundwater resource. He was also curious as to why this is a CCC/CVP project rather than one of the Select Board. A brief description of how the CCC and CVP came to work together on this was given.

Nick then reported of his latest progress: listing and contacting all water districts in town for their support, discussing real costs (inspections, keeping the database and other records updated, mailings) with DES and other towns who have similar programs, and providing database of PCS for update after phone calls by CCC members to business owners being contacted. The original list of about 25 is being whittled down to under 20.

Next steps were discussed: (Nick): continuing contact to water districts, (Nick): set up a meeting with 1 representative from CCC, Select Board, CVP and Ann Marie to begin discussing the management plan and how to cover real costs to program then go to Select Board again for further discussion, (Jess & Melissa): complete update of PCS database on link from Nick, (Nick): to write a sample form letter water districts can use to give support to the program application.

#### **4) Bank/shoreline/driveway concerns or projects**

a) C Smith bank stabilization: Jane gave a brief description of the storm damage to the Pemi river bank behind the Smith rental property @ 2022 Rt 3. She and Charlie Brosseau had made a site visit after receiving a report of excavator work being done within CSPA setbacks of the river. C Smith has begun emergency stabilization of the blow-down and eroded area and is now in need of assistance from DES to comply with necessary permitting. Jane reported having made initial contact to Jason Aube of DES, and is following up with further contacts to assist CS in compliance of this situation.

b) K Rogers: Eastern Corners steep driveway: Jane reported having made a site visit with Charlie Brosseau after a call from Butch Bain (town road agent) about concerns for the road ditches filled with silt run off in the area around the steep driveway to the house site. No improvements to the driveway erosion problem have been made since the most recent letter to the property owner or the last visit several months ago. Now it has gone from being an individual property owner problem to one also of the town since it is impacting the road ditches and probably also the wetland across the road. Jane reported having had discussion with the road agent and code enforcement officer (C Brosseau) about what should be done to rectify the problem and how to avoid this kind of situation in the future. The planning board had been apprised of the situation and plans to invite the owner in to the next work session. They also discussed that when the code enforcement officer makes a visit for a new driveway on a steep slope, an engineered plan should be required so this kind of problem can be avoided in the future. Jess made the suggestion that in future situations of this sort, copies of CC correspondence should include other town officials to increase knowledge and collaboration between various town bodies.

#### **5) FYI**

a) Various wetland/CSPA application follow-ups

D Whitten: Rt 3 wetland application: March 19 letter from DES requesting more information. One request of note referred to the need to receive a letter of permission from abutters within 20' of property line of project elements (of which the BWNA town property is one.) Jane will follow up to see if the town has received such a request.

Wilkie: Rt 3 wetland application: permit issued.

b)PB/PRLAC: We had received the notice for the town's PRLAC 2010 contribution of \$200 , now due. Jess will follow up to get to Ann Marie.

c)Upcoming events: Jess made available 2 workshop notices for various opportunities for community leaders.

d)Other:

1) details for what is necessary to bring for the work day scheduled for 8:30 on Sat, April 24, will circulate by email.

2) Jules brought up that the problem of ATVs crossing the Beebe River out past the old cemetery on Eastern Corners Road has started up again. He had seen recent tire tracks going into the river. There was some discussion that earlier problems last year seemed to be less after someone had marked the illegal crossing with surveyor tape and a small sign. It was decided that a second letter should be sent to the timberland owners (Yankee Land Managers) requesting action to stop this illegal activity and to follow up with a phone call.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM**

**The next meeting is at 7:30 (Summer meeting hour) on Wed, May 12, 2010**