

# Campton Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008; Campton Town Office; 7:30pm

**Commissioners present:** Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, Jess Halm, Jane Kellogg

**Others present:** Ron Landry (Campton Village Precinct), Todd Baldwin and Steve Hackett (Trout Unlimited)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

## 1. 2007 Town Report

Jane had drafted a report for Town Meeting, and sent it around via email for revisions. Lisa sent her suggestions for changes Online, and Jess and Melissa brought their edits to the meeting. Jane will incorporate these suggested changes and send a final draft around for approval via email.

## 2. FYI Items

- a. Planning Board: Jane shared that there is a property on Rte. 175 near the Congregational Church being considered for cluster development, with designated open space. More details will come at the next planning board meeting, on Tuesday Jan 15<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Forestry notification received on Chandler Hill property: The landlocked parcel on Chandler Hill that the CCC considered as a potential town forest has been sold, and a forestry notification has been submitted to the Town.
- c. Suggestion for conservation land: Rt. 49, west shore of Pemi River: This was suggested recently by Selectmen Keeney, as a potential opportunity for the Town to own and manage this popular recreation area. Jane did some preliminary research and learned that the parcel is ~17 acres, and currently a separate piece from the [property owner's residence.
- d. Blair and Livermore State Forest recreation access inquiry: a resident has inquired about the potential for increased recreational access to the Blair and Livermore State Forests. The lands are currently open to the public, and the potential for developing trails would need to be further investigated with the State. Melissa added that thick undergrowth can be a deterrent for casual use of the forests.

## 3. Campton Pond Discussion

Steve Hackett and Todd Baldwin were in attendance to discuss the possibility of dredging Campton Pond to restore it to what it once looked like, when there was a popular beach area with bathhouses in the current vicinity of the Campton Campground. There seems to be high community interest in this idea. They mentioned that this would be an intensive project that would require a lot of collaboration with State and Federal agencies, as well as local community groups such as the CCC and Trout Unlimited, and it could take several years to carry out. Trout Unlimited has worked on several similar projects in the past, including recent work on the Pemigewasset River near Exit 31 to reroute the river channel and restore a popular fishery, as well as a project in Waterville Valley to dredge Corcoran Pond. Todd Baldwin has recently worked intensively on several other wetland restoration efforts through his family business that specializes in these sorts of projects. Todd and Steve brought along aerial photos of Campton Pond as it exists today, with a few overlays showing what could possibly be done to deepen the pond, while leaving some wildlife habitat areas, and protecting the structure of the dam with a buffer zone. Todd mentioned that the material that would be dredged might be of interest to Owl's Nest golf course or area gravel pits. There is also likely to be a sizable quantity of pulpwood in the bottom of the pond. Jane suggested including wildlife viewing areas, and mentioned the opportunity to use the pond as an educational resource for the Town. This presents an opportunity for working with a diverse group of residents.

Jane asked if there was a way to obtain historic aerial photos of the pond, to get a feel for what it once looked like. Other important first steps will be contacting the US Forest Service, who owns the pond, as well as an engineer to inquire about what needs to be done to stabilize the dam, a hydrologist, and a wildlife biologist to inquire about the population of wood turtles living at the pond. Wood turtles are listed as a species of concern in NH. Jess will contact Kim Tuttle at NH F&G about this. Todd has worked with Kim in the past. Additionally, Steve will be in touch with Jane about a date to bring this proposed project to the Selectboard.

It was suggested to bring up this subject at Town Meeting, as an FYI to the town residents that it is being discussed.

## 4. Other

Jane will email all commissioners with potential dates for continued brochure work, and sign routing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.

The next scheduled meeting is **Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm.**