

Campton Conservation Commission Minutes

January 18, 2006

7:30 pm, Campton Town Office

Members Present: Jim Blake, Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, Jessica Halm, and Jane Kellogg

Others Present: JD McGarr, Patrick Miller, Dijit Taylor, Charlie Wheeler

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

Conversation with Dijit Taylor of the Center for Land Conservation Assistance:

The primary focus of this month's meeting was to discuss the pros and cons of our town taking on the responsibility of accepting and holding conservation easements. Dijit shared her knowledge and expertise in this area, and answered related questions from commission members and others in attendance.

In short, Dijit suggested working closely with a newly formed local land trust, the Pemi-Baker Land Trust, to acquire conservation easements for lands in town. Legally, the town can assist landowners with associated costs if we are executory (or secondary) easement holders. We do not need to be primary easement holders in order to do this, though it is a wise idea to keep our town lawyer informed of any decisions that are made along these lines. Having the town hold easements can be more costly and labor-intensive, particularly with changeover in commission leadership.

Jane shared information about a meeting that the Rumney CC recently held, where they invited resource professionals and local landowners to a forum to discuss what putting land into conservation easements entails. This was a very well attended meeting, and something that Campton might consider in the future as a reasonable way to assess landowner interest in conservation easements.

FYI Items:

- The Planning Board held a public hearing to review retail/business center and dark sky language. This language has been accepted under site plan regulations.
- PSU is continuing to offer roundtable discussion sessions centered on sustainable energy, which Melissa is coordinating. The next roundtable is set for February 21st. Melissa will send more dates and details via email.
- Snowshoe walks on BWNA are still on for January 28th and February 11th, led by Melissa and Jess. The walks start at 9:30 am on each day.
- Town meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 15th this year.
- Patrick suggested having North Country Council or another regional development organization do a "gap" analysis for the town, which would help to identify areas of apparent disconnect between the town's Master Plan and current regulations. (This idea stemmed from the conversation with Dijit Taylor).

To do:

- Regional Conservation Commission meeting is set for January 19th, at 7pm in Boyd Hall.
- Review Jane's draft of CCC Annual Report 2005 and send comments to Jane via email.
- Consider the possibility of incorporating a regular (monthly? Bi-monthly?) CCC work session in addition to our monthly meetings, in order to complete tasks such as writing the Conservation Plan, educational flyers for landowners, etc. We will ask other local commissions what they do at the regional conservation commission meeting on the 19th.
- Invite prospective CCC members to our next meeting.
- Invite a representative from the Pemi-Baker Land Trust to our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

**** The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 15th** (note change to 3rd Wednesday).

The March meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 8th**.

