

Campton Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2007; Campton Town Office; 7:30 pm

Members Present: Jules Doner, Lisa Doner, Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, Jane Kellogg

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

FYI Items:

- Jane summarized a discussion by the Planning Board regarding regulating junkyards in town. At this time, Campton has no ordinance governing junkyards; this conversation was initiated by the Selectboard's request that the Planning Board research possibilities for the Town to regulate junkyards. The State already regulates junkyards; towns, however, can implement additional regulations requiring junkyard owners to register with the town. A similar effort is underway in Rumney; residents have been given until 2008 to clear junk from yards, after which point the Town of Rumney will enforce the state regulations. Campton is considering doing the same, driven by health/safety and aesthetic considerations, as well as by increasing complaints by town residents regarding junkyards. One issue is distinguishing actual junkyards from messy yards. Another is environmental concerns such as leaching of fluids into soil. The general consensus among Planning Board members is to start with actual junkyards, then to address the broader concern of junk. Regarding environmental concerns, Lisa asked if the CC should write a letter of support which outlines the potential environmental concerns of junkyards, particularly water contamination, especially given the proximity of many residents to the river and the many private wells in town. Jane will get an update from last night's PB meeting regarding next steps—generally there is good support already.
- Lisa mentioned a meeting she attended last week for the New England Phenology Network in Durham. This is a New England group which wants to develop a more regional context for phenology, or the timing of natural events such as leaf-out, plant flowering, and so forth. Lisa suggested to the group that CC's statewide may be a good source, as they represent a knowledgeable citizenry who can monitor such events to add to the national database. Additionally, CC members may be able to connect individuals who are already casually tracking natural events. Lisa will contact the NHACC to explore the idea. Melissa suggested also contacting the NH Coverts Cooperators, a body of volunteers trained in woodlot and property management around wildlife.
- Melissa wanted to recognize the trail work that Pat Barker has been doing through the past few months at BWNA, as well as her continued work with the plant tags.

Budget:

- Expenditures to date for 2007 include: \$200 for NHACC dues; \$95 for BWNA management for work performed on the kiosk; \$135 for conferences (\$20 for the Watershed Conference, \$35 for the NHACC conference, \$50 for the Clean Air/Cool Planet Conference, and \$30 for the North Country Council Annual Meeting). \$150 was budgeted for postage/supplies, but \$300 was spent. This was due to a map made by the North Country Council last year that was not billed until this year. That leaves

\$225 from the 2007 budget that has not yet been spent; however, we will wait until the final expenditures come through to get a firm budget amount.

- Preliminary discussion for 2008 budget: dues will remain the same, as will conference budget. Jane suggested raising the postage/supplies/printing budget to accommodate a CCC factsheet/brochure for distribution to new residents and “Friends of the CCC.”
- Discussion ensued regarding whether the brochure should be in color, which would represent a significantly higher cost. Lisa suggested initially printing the brochure in black-and-white, then collecting feedback and altering it accordingly. Regarding the current draft, Lisa suggested listing the top priorities for homeowner actions which would help new residents transition to rural life. Lisa will work on the brochure with Jules’ help and email progress.

BWNA:

- Jane presented sketches for signs along the trails. She will begin compiling a materials list and budget for the signs and continue exploring appropriate dimensions for the signs. Tentatively, the signs will be made in late winter and erected at BWNA in the spring.
- Jane mentioned that we need to think about when to close off the parking area for the winter. Melissa has the wooden signs and cable from last year and will contact Jules or Jane for help in putting it up when winter arrives.
- Melissa suggested putting a digital copy of the BWNA trail guide on the CCC website. Jane will send Melissa the email contact of Beverly Chappell, the website administrator for the Town’s website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

The next meeting is December 12, 7:30 pm