

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2009; 7:30pm

CCC Members Present: Jess Halm, Jane Kellogg, Jules Doner, Tammy Wooster

Others Present: CVP members Gary Benedix, Ron Landry, John Whitney, Butch Burhoe, John Pierce, and Dave Guyger. Also present was Nick Sceggell from Granite State Rural Water.

1) June Minutes:

Jane made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. Jules seconded the motion. All were in favor.

2) Groundwater Protection Update:

The CCC meeting coincided with the end of the CVP meeting at the town office and so it was decided to have a joint discussion on the issue of groundwater reclassification since this item was on the agendas of both groups. Jess gave a brief description of where the project stands to date noting that we are now awaiting the Select Board's decision whether to sign the reclassification application. This decision will be made at their July 26th meeting.

In general there was disappointment expressed over the abrupt closing of the July 12th public hearing. Consensus was that not all present at the hearing were given the opportunity to speak, and it appeared that the Select Board was mainly interested in what the four business owners present had to say.

All agreed that the business owners initially expressed negative sentiment over the program and seemed resistant to any government control of their operations. It was pointed out that when Jess emphasized the benefits of building a record of following Best Management Practices, some seemed more open to the idea of local rather than state administration of the program. All hoped that the fact that the remaining 11 businesses on the PCP list did not attend the hearing would have bearing on the Board's decision.

Jules said that the point needs to be emphasized that Reclassification is presently the only tool available to protect the town's valuable groundwater resource and must be utilized regardless of any perceived detriment. Gary noted that without the program, the Planning Board which is the entity on the front lines of approving new businesses has no framework from which to work in preventing potential contamination. He added that there is not only an advantage to living over an aquifer but also a responsibility to protect it.

It was decided that all would try to attend the July 26th Select Board meeting in an effort to express continued support for the program. Jess proposed that in the meantime, a letter be drafted and sent to the Board as an official statement of support. The CVP agreed to sign the letter and Jane offered to write the first draft. Nick said that he was already working on an alternative plan in the event that the application does not move forward. Nick and the CVP then left the meeting. Ann Marie dropped in to make sure the alarm reset and door locking responsibilities were met knowing that there were two meetings scheduled. Jules asked Ann

Marie if the group would be able to speak to Groundwater Reclassification at the next Select Board meeting. Ann Marie said that she would allot time for this if requested and for Jess to send her a reminder to do so.

3.) Land Management:

a. BWNA

Jess has noticed an increased use of the BWNA especially by swimmers and pointed out that we should be vigilant in keeping it maintained. She said that she recently removed a small tree that had fallen and also noticed some poison ivy along the Abenaki trail. Jane said she had some time to visit BWNA the next day and will try to remove the poison ivy.

b. PCP

i.) Sign Ideas:

Jane shared a sketch she made of a sign to be built and placed at the corner of the PCP. Ron has again offered to router the letters and Jane will do the painting and staining. Tammy said she has some leftover paint and stain from the BWNA sign work that could be used. Jess and Ian will mill up a slab for the sign body, and Jules will provide the posts. Other sign details discussed were hooks set for adding additional event related signs and adornment of the sign with shovel heads in memory of Ed Pattee.

ii.) Trails Update:

Jess, Melissa and Tammy had recently met and flagged the beginnings of a walking trails network. Due to a busy CCC schedule all agreed to wait until next month's meeting to set a date for trail clearing work.

iii.) Elm Tree:

All were pleased about the Select Board's support for the Elm tree project. Jess will contact the Garden Club to set up a brief meeting. Things to discuss at the meeting include a timeline for planting and CCC member money donation specifics. Jess will also request advice/assistance for planting wildflowers around the sign to be erected.

iv.) Mowing Quotes:

Jess will ask Jeff Tobine who has a landscaping business for a quote on mowing the PCP field perhaps for next fall or fall 2012.

v.) Conversation with Homeowners:

We should be thinking about updating the Lane's on PCP management matters including trail clearing, mowing, sign and Elm tree planting plans. It may also be a good time to revisit unresolved boundary marking.

4.) Brian/ Jules health update:

All were happy to see that Jules was present and recovering from his recent leg injury. Brian's health status is still unknown and Jess will follow up on this. It was noted that Melissa's absence was due to a death in the family.

5.) Next Projects:

Jess said that the next issue on the work radar after the groundwater project is to reconnect with the Ellsworth Hill resident who requested conservation easement information last fall.

6.) FYI:

a. PRLAC:

Jane summarized a recent e-mail she received from Dave Jeffers of the Lakes Region Planning Commission. Dave compiled GIS information town by town which identified wetland areas of high value. This work was done in the context of identifying high value sites for potential ARM funding projects. There were 5 such areas in Campton, the highest scoring of which was the Campton Bog.

Jane will e-mail Dave explaining that there are no big ARM fund project ideas that presently come to mind but that we will work in using this data to approach landowners abutting high value wetlands and communicate the possibility of using future ARM funds to assist with land conservation projects.

b.) Other FYI:

Jess reminded all to make additions to Melissa's recently created CCC friends database.

Meeting adjourned

9:20 pm

Next Meeting: August 11, 2010; 7:30pm