

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2010; 7pm

Members Present: Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, Jess Halm, Jane Kellogg, Brian Middlekauff, Tammy Wooster

Others Present: Nick Sceggell from Granite State Rural Water

1. February Minutes:

Jess made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. Melissa seconded the motion. All were in favor. Jess brought to all's attention that despite daylight savings being in effect, April's meeting will still begin at 7pm since that is the time posted on our website. Beginning in May meetings will start at 7:30.

2. Groundwater Reclassification efforts, continued:

Nick Sceggell joined our meeting after attending the Village Precinct's meeting. He said the CVP is now up to date and on board with our Reclassification work. The CVP expressed full support but voiced their preference to move forward together with all of the other water districts/systems in town. Nick suggested that this would be preferable to present the project to the Select Board as a coalition, rather than as separate entities. Nick has already begun contacting other water system managers and will continue to update us on his progress.

Next, Nick asked how CC members were progressing with their PCS phone calls. At a March 2nd brief work session, CC members had divided up and assigned phone call duties to area businesses on the PCS list. Jane, Jess and Tammy summarized their phone call results. Overall, the response from businesses was supportive and positive. Both Jane and Tammy had businesses that were deemed not to be Potential contamination sites. It was decided that the best way to denote these businesses in our working spreadsheet is to select the text style as a strike through, rather than delete them altogether. At some point in the future two lists will be created, separating businesses already investigated and eliminated from the list from legitimate PCS sites. All will continue with their phone calls and update the PCS list on the Google Docs site.

Jess asked Nick at what point the Management Plan will be written and finalized, to which Nick answered as soon as we get a better idea of our time frame. Jess asked how future new businesses will be added to the PCS list. Jane said that new businesses must go before the Planning Board for a site plan review and it would make sense to regularly ask the Planning Board for this information.

Nick responded that he envisions the Management Plan to be a living document with the capability to make updates, and that the Planning Board review process could certainly be detailed in the Management Plan.

Nick said that he will be meeting with his PCS assigned business on Friday which is a Beebe River PCS site. Additionally, he will visit Handyman Hardware, and meet with representatives from the towns of Pembroke and Belmont, both of which are undergoing reclassification. His hopes are to get answers on cost concerns and time frames.

Tammy asked at what point will it be determined who will be conducting the PCS surveys/inspections. Discussion continued about possible likely candidates to perform this work including the Health Officer, Code Enforcement Officer and the Fire Chief. It was decided that a list of entities that perform this work in other towns will be included in the Management Plan, and ultimately it will be up to the Select Board to decide.

Nick wrapped it up by saying he will continue to post documents on the Google Docs site for CC members to review and edit, and he will see us at the next meeting. Nick was thanked by all and left the meeting.

3. Update on Town protocol for fundraising/accepting monies/donations:

Melissa reported that her work trying to answer monetary questions has been partially resolved. The Select Board has given approval to deposit money from donations directly into the Conservation Fund. However, as communicated by Ann Marie, monies generated from gift card selling are interpreted as revenue and must be deposited into the General Fund.

Alternatively, Carol Andrews from the NHACC told Melissa that other NH towns raise money from calendar and other sales which are then deposited into their conservation funds. Carol referred Melissa to the NH Local Gov't Center. Melissa will update us after learning more. Jess added that she has a friend on the Orford Conservation Commission who has a potential source of information on this issue.

4. Land Management

a. Plans for April land Mgmt. meeting:

As was the case last year, our April business meeting will be dedicated to discussing PCP and BWNA land management. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide input. Jess will write up an announcement to be posted in the Talk of the Towns. Tammy said that she had the list of Pattee Public Hearing attendees, all of whom should be invited. Jess and Tammy will work together to send a mailing announcement to those on the list.

Jess said that four topics to be discussed relative to the PCP were mowing, beautification, a Forest Management Plan, and the parking lot. One beautification idea Jess shared was the planting of wildflower seeds, perhaps concentrated in the corner of the field where Blair Rd and Rt. 175 meet. Tammy reminded all that a planting of perhaps blueberry bushes between the parking lot and the Lane's house would serve as a visual barrier. Brian suggested we invite the Campton Garden Club to our next meeting for input. All agreed that the Select Board should also be on the list to invite.

b. PCP Driveway Update:

The CCC is hopeful that Butch Bain will still be able to complete the PCP driveway site work requested last fall. Jess will invite him to our April meeting.

c. PCP Forest Management Plan:

Jess asked if all could choose a date to meet with local forester Dave Thompson to discuss future forest management plans. She suggested that we meet before our April meeting so that we can share Dave's recommendations with the public. A date was set for Tuesday, March 30th. Jess will confirm the time later.

d. BWNA Spring Cleanup:

Saturday, April 24th, at 8:30 am was set for the BWNA cleanup day. Melissa said that she had officially opened the parking lot for the season. Tammy said that she still had to paint the parking area sign and would have it finished for the workday. The list of work tasks includes the installation of a bridge handrail, brush cleanup, removal of 2 trees, kiosk update, sign replacement near the river, and a new rustic bench near the River Trail. Jess has the sign to be glued and refastened. Tammy said that her husband Eric offered to build the handrail. All will be in e-mail contact before the workday to assign materials/tools to bring.

e. Leah Big Trees Contest:

Melissa said that she received a note from Leah Gray asking if we could participate in a NH contest that recognizes the biggest trees in the state. Leah thought that some trees in BWNA may be contenders. Jess said that she is familiar with the program and will get the contact information. In the meantime, we will measure some of the big white pines on our workday.

5. Town Meeting Wrap-up:

a. Looking Back- How did it go?

A collective sigh of relief was shared surrounding the outcome of the warrant article vote. All commended Jess and Jules for their excellent job in representing the commission on this important issue.

Jane noted that the work of CC members getting the word out was key, in particular, the sharing of Melissa's letter that was drafted and e-mailed to friends of the CC. All agreed that in general, Campton is a conservation minded community.

b. Any next steps?

Melissa said that she would like to take the "friends of the CC" mailing label list and update it to include an e-mail list. All agreed this was a great idea to the extent that we will begin the process at our May meeting. In the meantime, Jess asked if Melissa could put her mailing label list into Microsoft Access, as it is a better mailing tool.

Jane emphasized the importance of reconnecting with those who stood up and spoke in support of the CC at Town Meeting. She asked all in the coming weeks to make the effort to thank everyone we know who attended and voted in our favor.

Bryon suggested that we formalize and publicize our PCP/BWNA management plans in response to a town meeting attendee who suggested we were without a plan. All agreed to Bryon's idea which will become especially important after our April meeting.

6. FYI:

a. Litter Clean-up Day:

Melissa shared some materials sent to the CC announcing a statewide litter clean-up initiative. All agreed not to participate since we recently became a sponsor for the Adopt-a Highway program.

b. Adopt-a Highway Update :

Jess reported that she has been in contact with the NH DOT and we are simply waiting for the signs to go up which will mark the boundaries of the road stretch we are responsible for keeping clean. After the signs are up, we contact the DOT garage in Gilford to arrange for the bags/ vests to be picked up. Jane suggested we could begin work on our upcoming workday if the signs are up by then.

c. Orford CC:

Jess shared a story of a recent event she attended with her family which was organized by the Orford Conservation Commission. A group of about 80 people gathered for a walk around Indian Pond and then enjoyed some food together. Jess said that we should consider organizing something similar in the future. Jane suggested that we come up with an idea for Old Home Day at the PCP.

d. Future Kids Garden Idea-Rey Center:

Melissa shared a conversation she had with the Rey Center's Audrey Eisenhower regarding using the PCP for a future kid's garden project, perhaps in partnership with Parks & Rec. All met the idea with enthusiasm. Jane said water access could present a problem. Melissa suggested rain barrels near the Blanchard House. Melissa said that the Rey Center already has a Kid Garden program in place and would serve as a great resource. Melissa will invite Audrey to our next meeting.

e. Various wetland application follow-ups:

Melissa passed around a Request for More Information letter from DES to be filed. Jane mentioned that she wanted to revisit the Eastern Corners steep driveway site, and asked for accompaniment. Jess offered to go and Jane said she would invite Jules along since he had visited the site before.

f. Planning Board/PRLAC:

Jane announced that her Planning Board seat was up for renewal and that she was considering resigning since she had served on the board since about 1993. All expressed

support for Jane's decision and confidence that she would still maintain her contacts and interest in conservation related Planning Board matters.

Jane and Tammy recently attended a PRLAC meeting where available ARM funds were discussed. The take home message was for all towns within the Pemi watershed to input any local knowledge/data into the model being developed for wetland mitigation prioritization. Tammy is submitting a mapped area identified as critical wood turtle habitat by local biologist Don Buso. Jane emphasized that although no one at the meeting had any definitive ideas for use of ARM funds, the project is new and there will be another funding cycle in the future.

g. Saving Special Places Conference:

The conference will be held in Weare on Saturday, April 10th. Registration is required by March 26th.

Meeting Adjourned 9:10pm
Next Meeting: April 14, 2010 7pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Tammy Wooster