

**Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2010; 7:00 pm**

CCC Members present: Jess Halm, Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, Jane Kellogg, Jules Doner, and Tammy Wooster

1) October Minutes:

Jane made a motion to accept the October minutes. Melissa seconded the motion. All were in favor.

2) Groundwater Protection Update:

Jess summarized the status of the groundwater project, reporting that the Select Board opposed the reclassification application by a 4-1 vote. All expressed disappointment and an interest in moving forward to begin implementation of the Source Water Protection Plan developed by Nick Sceggell of Granite State Rural Water. January 19, 2011 was set as a work session date to begin groundwater outreach. We will meet at 7pm at Jane's house. Tammy will inform Nick of this date, as he has expressed a continued interest.

3) Conservation Easement Inquiry:

Jane has been in contact with Steve Hamburg, an Ellsworth Hill landowner requesting financial assistance in completing a conservation easement for his 34 acre property. Jane had sent Steve an e-mail expressing the CC's support and requested an estimate of anticipated costs and inquired as to what level of cost sharing he was seeking. Steve responded with an estimate of \$10,000-\$14,000 as the total cost of the easement.

CCC members discussed what would be the appropriate and best way to expend Conservation funds for this very important first easement project. Consensus was that committing to a price per acre formula would set a precedent for future transactions and that each project should be assessed on a case by case basis. Jane reminded the group that Conservation funds can be used for surveying, legal and stewardship fees but not for assessments. All agreed that paying the Stewardship fee would best fit the mission of the Conservation Fund. Jane shared some advice she received at a recent conference session covering the use of conservation funds, which was to request any bills directly from the service provider when reimbursing costs. In this case the Forest Society will be the easement holder.

Jules made a motion to provide conservation funds to cover the stewardship fees payable directly to the Forest Society not to exceed \$7,000 for Steve Hamburg's 34 acre conservation easement project on Ellsworth Hill. Jane seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Jane will send an e-mail to Steve to inform him of the CC's vote and to request a Stewardship fee bill from the Forest Society if he accepts our offer.

4) Land Management:

a. PCP

i. South and East Boundary Question with the Lanes:

Jess summarized the ongoing boundary issue with the Lane's to date. In Sept. Jess and Jane met with the Lane's to address the South and East boundary line questions that exist. All agreed on the need for a survey and it was left that each party would obtain survey estimates and regroup at our next business meeting. The Lane's did not attend the October meeting. In the meantime, Jules said that he had met and walked the entire PCP property with a local surveyor for the purpose of obtaining an estimate. When they walked the Lane's lot, Clint objected to their presence without a courtesy call. Jules told Clint that he would call first in the future and left the Lane's property.

Jules shared a written estimate provided by the surveyor which covers deed research, computer analysis, a survey plan, ribbon blazing, and monument setting.

All were in agreement that a survey of the entire PCP property should be completed at the expense of the CCC which would resolve the Lane property boundary issue and confirm all of the other PCP boundaries. Additionally, if the Lane's wish to pursue a boundary line adjustment, they will be responsible for bearing the costs. We then discussed obtaining a couple more surveying estimates and Jules will be following up on this.

Jess made a motion to have a survey performed ASAP for the purpose of confirming the boundaries of the entire PCP property and to go with the more reasonable of the two bids. Additionally, she moved that any money required as a retainer from the surveyor come from the Conservation Fund. Jules seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Jane mentioned that having the survey available in digital format would be useful to the Planning Board. Jules will follow up with the surveyors on this point. Jess will send a letter to the Lanes informing them of our decision and also to let them know about our upcoming roadside cleanup in their neighborhood.

ii. Trail Work Update:

The new PCP trail has been cut and cleared, and Jules has mowed a walking path around the field which connects to the new trail at two points of entry. Whether or not to paint blazes on the trees was discussed and it was decided that we will walk the trail some more to see how easy it is to follow.

iii. Poison Ivy:

Tammy shared a home remedy she found online which is supposed to be an effective alternative to herbicides in poison ivy control. We will give this a try and apply the mixture to a test plot on our roadside cleanup day. Melissa will provide vinegar, Jane will bring salt, Tammy will bring dish soap and Jess will bring a sprayer.

iv. Driveway Permit/fence for parking:

Melissa made copies of the PCP deed and original driveway permit application during our meeting to complete the new driveway application. Jess has been pricing out split rail fence segments which we eventually will use to delineate a PCP parking area.

b. BWNA:

Melissa handed out copies of the Trail Guide for CC members to keep in their cars as a replenishing supply. She will contact True Colors Printing for a reorder quote so we can budget for it next year. Melissa will also make a list of minor edits to be made at reprint time. Jane suggested we post a laminated sign on the box reminding visitors to return the guide when finished or leave a \$1.00 donation if they choose to keep the guide.

5) Legal Response from NHLGC regarding Card Sales:

Melissa handed out copies of a letter from the NH Local Gov't. Center, in response to a question the CC posed regarding the handling of card sale funds. In summary the staff attorney recommended that the cards be sold as a private endeavor and that proceeds could then be donated back into the Conservation Fund. Currently there is a separate account that was set up by Town Treasurer Mary Durgin for the purpose of depositing money donated by Leah Gray. Melissa will check with Mary to clarify the function of the account and ask whether it may serve as a place for card donation monies.

6) Last Minute Plans for Highway Cleanup:

Sunday November 14th will be our first Adopt a Highway road cleanup work day. We will meet at the PCP at 9 am and split into groups. CC members will gather @ 8:30 to treat poison ivy and discuss parking area specifics. Melissa will pick up bags, signs and vests Friday morning at the Ashland shed. CC members hope to enlist the help of some other volunteers.

7) 2011 Plans

The 2011 Budget will be set at our December 8th meeting. January has been set aside as a Groundwater work session month and the April meeting will be dedicated to land management.

8) FYI

a. NHACC annual meeting recap: What did we learn?

Jules brought some handouts from a session he attended regarding financing conservation projects where there was an emphasis on utilizing federal resources such as the Farm Bill. Jules also learned the importance of PR work in advertising CC projects and came away with some market strategies and example press releases. He also attended a Community Forest workshop which covered high density management strategies and model ordinances.

Jane and Tammy both attended the New DES Stream Crossing Rules workshop and agreed that it was not helpful in clarifying the new rules but there are online resources to consult.

At another session on spending conservation money, Jane learned that expenditures on land that exceeds town boundaries cannot be made unless the town adopts language allowing for this scenario. Many NH towns have been working on adopting language relative to this issue through Town meeting warrant articles. Lastly, Jane mentioned that she learned of a NHACC published book Municipal Conservation Fund by Carol Andrews and Digit Taylor that was sent to all NH towns within the last year but the CCC did not receive one. Jane is following up on getting a copy.

Tammy attended a session on Communities Taking Action for Wildlife and got a first glimpse of a not yet released website created by UNH Cooperative Extension and Fish & Game. The website has tools for both landowners and community planners to use for conservation projects. There are also downloadable wildlife habitat maps by town and Campton has been identified as having several high value habitat areas. Tammy expressed that we should be using these tools for future planning in conjunction with our Natural Resource Inventory. Jess agreed and proposed that we set a 2011 goal of having a monthly work session to begin tackling some new projects.

b. PRLAC:

Jane had nothing new to report other than the ongoing PRLAC Pemi River Corridor survey, the link for which has been circulated to CC members and others.

Meeting adjourned 9:08 pm
Next meeting Dec 8, 2010; 7pm