

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

Members present: Jane Kellogg, Jules Doner, Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, Jim Blake, Jon Homer

Others present: Patrick Miller(property owner, Beech Hill)

FYI Items:

1. Melissa reported having attended the recent Hubbard Brook Cooperators' Meeting. She noted a few interesting project reports from work done in and around Camton in 2005. There is more work this year, mostly in the Bald Mountain area of town.
2. Melissa announced having set the date for the aquatic insect walk at BWNA for Aug 5 @ 10 AM. She and Kerry Yurewicz of PSU will be conducting the walk. She has prepared a press release which will be sent to the paper.
3. The CHS is very interested in our offer to collaborate with them on their project to mark various points of interest in town. Melissa is coordinating with them with help setting marker posts, preparing brochures, etc.
4. Local Food Plymouth is considering adding local farms to its list of farms offering local produce to the farmers' market online ordering for 2007. Campton Farm was mentioned, as well as talking with other Campton farm producers.
5. Melissa announced a program on Sat, July 15 @ 9:30. Steve Hamburg will lead a walk from the Berry Farm on "Reading the Forest".
6. Jane shared information received from the WMNF about a proposal to extend the bike path in Franconia Notch to Twin Mt. Public input is being sought by July 25.
7. Scott Pulsifer's taping of the recent Conservation Easements and Estate Planning are available in DVD and VHS format to loan to folks. The press release about the program lead to a call to see the taping. Patrick Miller suggested notifying folks who signed up for the workshop but did not attend and offer the tapes for viewing.
8. DES fee in lieu program. Jane will report on this more fully at a later meeting.
9. Jon Homer reported the Selectmen have not had discussion about the latest draft of the Conservation Fund Guidelines. He invited us to attend the next meeting on July 24 to discuss it with the Selectboard.
10. Melissa also had literature about a fern identification workshop on July 26 at Hubbard Brook, and a GIS training workshop by UNH Cooperative Extension in Laconia on July 27.

North Country Council questionnaire:

A short community service questionnaire had been sent to various town boards. The commission spent a few minutes discussing and completing it.

Wetland Permit Application:

A DES Expedited permit application had been received for the Kelly subdivision on Perch Pond and Hogback Roads. A site visit was planned for the following morning (July 13). Jane, Melissa and Jules will attend.

Bog Pond area conservation: discussion:

Patrick Miller presented his thoughts about possible conservation efforts in the Bog Pond area. He has 76 acres on Beech Hill, including a beaver pond, and contiguous with other large parcels in the watershed around Bog Pond. The area has abundant wildlife for hunting and visual enjoyment, as well as boating and fishing recreation, combined with core watershed ecologic services. There was discussion about the natural resources inventory (NRI) work done for the town in 2005 and its demonstration of the Bog Pond area as one with many co-occurrence resources of importance for protection. Other work within the state by NH Fish and Game on the State Wildlife Action Plan all demonstrate the importance of conservation efforts. There was discussion about the opportunity to combine voluntary and regulatory conservation practices.

Patrick reported having spoken informally with some neighbors and believes the time is right to begin putting together some actions leading toward conservation. He would like to pull together a small group within the Bog Pond watershed area and begin talking about the importance of the area and ideas individuals can do for protection. The availability of Conservation Fund money may be attractive to some. Using some of the new GIS mapping layers developed through the NRI to create maps of the area was discussed as a tool to help the community better understand the area. Patrick will work with Melissa and Jane to propose layers that would be important to show on a map. Two other areas of town were also discussed in terms of high co-occurrence resources as identified by the NRI. They were Weetamoo Mt. and Bald Mt. areas. Jane will look into possibilities of map creation for all three areas of town.

There was additional discussion about educational outreach using the NRI and any additional maps of the 3 critical areas of town (Bog Pond, Weetamoo Mt, and Bald Mt.) which could be created. . There was discussion with Selectmen Homer regarding purchase of the GIS software and hardware (approved at Town Meeting 2006) which will be critical to continue with this work. May Brosseau (Planning Board clerk) has begun GIS training with the NCC and is beginning to understand its use for Planning Board work.

Homework:

JK, MGY, JD: DES wetland permit site visit: July 13 @ 9:30 AM.

JK, MGY, etc: Continued communication and collaboration with Patrick Miller and CHS on various projects.

MGY: posting of aquatic insect workshop press release.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

The next meeting is Wednesday, Aug. 9 @ 7:30 PM.