

**Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes**

August 21st, 2013;7:30pm

Commissioners present: Jess Halm, Alisoun Hodges, Jane Kellogg, Tammy Wooster

Others Present: Campton resident Liza Tetley

Jess served as chair and opened the meeting by welcoming Liza. Alisoun made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. Jane seconded the motion and all were in favor.

1) **Livermore Falls update:**

Tammy reported that she and her family attended the Campton segment of the Pemi River Cleanup event on August 3rd. A group of about twelve people including a few Rumney and Plymouth residents, representatives from the Plymouth Rotary, PRLAC, DRED and PSU picked up trash along the roadsides, river, and mill ruins of the Livermore Gorge. A small tarp setup was taken down and two fire rings were dismantled. Bill Carpenter from DRED climbed into the gorge and mill ruins and cleaned up a great deal of trash and lumber that had accumulated over time. Brush that had been cut by the state was consolidated and piled along the rocks. Jess asked if there was any firewood left and Tammy said that there was, but the pieces were too big to move without chainsaw work. Bill said that he would look into organizing a winter burn event to clear the wood and brush. The cleanup event continued downriver into Plymouth, which Tammy did not attend, but hoped the turnout was just as good.

Tammy also reported that there hasn't been much progress made on the proposed parking area planning. Bill Carpenter responded by e-mail that the Becket School does not own the land, but rather leases it from a private landowner. Bill contacted Jesse Mohr from the Becket school and is still waiting to hear back regarding landowner contact info. Alisoun suggested that we could give Bill another Becket School contact to follow up with and suggested John McDermott of Plymouth.

Liza asked if Campton had online interactive tax maps, to which Jane responded no, the tax maps are only just recently digitized. Jane then offered to look at the tax maps, and if possible provide the landowner contact information to Bill.

At last months meeting, Alisoun mentioned seeing a Classified Ad in the paper placed by the Town of Holderness looking to hire a monitor for the Livermore Falls beach. Alisoun said that since then, someone has in fact been hired. Jess added that on a recent visit there with her family she noticed better signage, less trash, no parking violations and a Holderness Police Officer had also stopped by. Jane reminded the group that the next Friends of the Pemi group meeting will be on September 24, from 7-8:30, but clarification is needed whether it is a morning or evening meeting time.

2) **Rivers Celebration:**

Alisoun reported that she attended the 25th Anniversary celebration of the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program which included an awards ceremony, luncheon, a water quality monitoring demonstration, and paddling trip. Alisoun showed the group a Laconia Citizen front page report of the well organized event, and said that about 40 people attended including the Governor and DES Commissioner Tom Burack.

3) **CCC Constant Contact/e-mail update:**

Tammy reported that she just learned from Beverly Chappell that our CCC e-mail is all set up with web access, and that the cause of the delay was that our e-mail address had not been added to the new system. Tammy said that she had some user access questions for Beverly, and once answered, she will send the access info. around to the group.

Jess suggested that we come up with a few monthly newsworthy items from each meeting to share with our friends list. Alisoun added that we should all look at any e-mails before they are sent off to which all agreed. Tammy also mentioned that Beverly asked if we had a logo she could add to the newsletter template. Jess recalled a merganser logo used on the BWNA boundary markers, and thought it could be modified to serve as a future CCC logo. Jane said she would look around and see if there are any more markers around, but in the meantime, whatever logo the town uses will suffice.

4) Conservation Matters Article Update:

Jess reported that the first official Conservation Matters column has been submitted and printed in the Record Enterprise. Jess said that after receiving approval from County Forester Dave Falkenham on some edits to his article that was to serve as the first submission, Larry Spencer from the Holderness CC submitted an alternative article. Jess ended up using Larry's article first, and Dave's will be all ready for next month's submission. All agreed that Larry's article was appropriate and provided a great explanation of the role of Conservation Commissions.

5) Red Sleigh Tree Work Quote:

Jess shared a quote received from Top Notch to remove a poplar from the BWNA that is hanging over a shed on the adjacent Red Sleigh property. The work will take about an hour and a half and will cost \$450. Alisoun asked whether there was a way we could raise donations to help pay for the work. It was agreed that since this is a property maintenance issue, an expenditure would be appropriate. Jess added that she thought that the quote was competitive and that since the work was local there is no charge for set-up/take-down. Jess made a motion to use the Conservation Fund to pay \$450 as quoted by Top Notch Tree Care for the removal of a hazard tree on the boundary of the BWNA and Red Sleigh properties. Jane seconded the motion and all were in favor. Jane asked whether Top Notch will need to access the tree by way of the Red Sleigh property to which Jess responded, yes, that Loretta Muzzey from the Red Sleigh Condo Assoc. is aware of this.

Discussion was had whether we need the quote in writing, and it was decided that a verbal quote was sufficient. Jane reminded the group that after the work is completed, Top Notch will need to submit a bill to the Town of Campton Conservation Commission. Subsequently, Ann Marie will need something in writing from us stating the history of the expenditure vote. Jess will coordinate with Top Notch and Ann Marie to complete the work and payment.

6) Pattee Property:

a. Mowing

Former CCC member Lea Stewart communicated that she had run into Mike Rej who asked if we wanted him to mow the PCP field again this year. Tammy called Mike and

received a verbal quote of \$400. Tammy told Mike that the CCC had to vote on the expenditure since it was to come from the Conservation Fund, rather than from the operating budget, and that she would get back to him after tonight's meeting. Jane made a motion that we expend \$400 from the Conservation Fund to pay Mike Rej for the mowing of the Pattee field. Jess seconded the motion and all were in favor. Tammy will follow up with Mike Rej.

b. Liberty Elm Tree Plaque:

Jess explained that Carol Lenahan from the Garden Club contacted her regarding the installation of the Liberty Elm Tree donor plaque. In 2010, donors were publicly promised that a plaque with their names would be placed to acknowledge their contributions to the Liberty Elm Tree project. Carol proposed that the \$437 cost of the plaque be split three ways between the Garden Club, Historical Society, and Conservation Commission, at \$145.67 per group. Discussion was had as to which of the two CCC funding sources would be appropriate to use for this purpose. Jess made a motion to cover the cost of our share of the Elm Tree Donor Plaque from our regular budget. Alisoun seconded the motion and all were in favor. Jess will follow up with Carol and also asked the group to walk the PCP trails when possible to see if anything needs to be cleared.

c. Historical Society Halloween Event:

Tammy read aloud an e-mail sent from Paul Yelle, gauging the CCC's interest in hosting a PCP walk of some sort after the Halloween History walk. Paul explained in his e-mail that pumpkins have been planted in the Pattee field again, and that he estimates about 200 people will attend the haunted walk this year. The group brainstormed appropriate conservation related ideas such as an owl or nocturnal animals walk. Jess will look into what the Science Center and Rey Center are already planning and ask how they might be able to support us. Tammy will get back to Paul and ask the date and estimated time of the event, and tell him that at the very least we will invite the public to join us on a night walk of the field and trails.

Jane reminded the group that our October 21st History of NH Wildlife event will be right around that time as well. Lastly, Jane asked how this summer's BWNA Nature Nights were going. Jess said that she had gone to two of them which were well attended, and that there were some new families this year.

7) Easement Inquiry:

Jane was recently contacted by a Beech Hill area landowner who said he purchased a new piece of property and was looking into putting an easement on it. Alisoun asked who would approve the easement. Jane said an easement holder would have to be named and it was unclear what role the CCC would play, but the next step would be to meet with the landowner. Jane will follow up and set up a time for a couple of us to meet with him.

8) Incoming Mail/FYI:

Mail received included the Squam Lakes Watershed Assessment Report. Jess mentioned that there is a Drinking Water Seminar Series going on this evening at the Squam Lakes Association, and that she only learned of the event two days ago from Larry Spencer.

The meeting wrapped up with a discussion of a few ideas for next month's agenda. In addition to following up on this month's topics, we will also re-visit the Wildlife Action

Plan work list to decide what to act on, and review updates relative to the proposed Northern Pass project.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm
Next meeting September 11, 2013
Alisoun will chair

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster