

**Campton Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 11, 2013; 7:30pm**

**Members Present:** Jess Halm, Alisoun Hodges, Jane Kellogg, Tammy Wooster

**Others Present:** Rebecca Steeves, Liza Tetley

Alisoun served as meeting chair. Jess made a motion to accept the August meeting minutes and Jane seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**1) Halloween Walk:**

Since our last meeting, Jess sent an e-mail to Leigh Ann Reynolds from the Rey Center asking whether she would be able to lead an evening walk at the Pattee property in search of wildlife signs, following the Historical Society Halloween event. Leigh Ann said that the Rey Center could provide a naturalist for a fee of \$90/hr. Jane asked whether it would be appropriate to ask for contributions from walk attendees to help defray the cost. Jess thought that this would be reasonable given that others put out donation jars for contributions toward refreshments and horse-drawn rides at last year's Historical Society event. Jane made a motion to expend up to \$90 from our regular budget to pay for a naturalist led conservation themed walk at the October 26<sup>th</sup> Historical Society Halloween event. Jess seconded the motion and all were in favor. Jess will iron out the details with Leigh Ann and Paul Yelle, and report back at our next meeting. She will also look for something to use as a donation jar.

Jess asked if we all had seen the BWNA kiosk display that the Rey Center created with Nature Nights participants this summer. Jane said she thought that it was very nicely done with artwork and a description of the program. Alisoun suggested we send a Thank You note to the Rey Center. Jane went to the CCC cabinet, found a note card and passed it around for signing.

**2) Red Sleigh tree removal status:**

Jess reported that the tree removal work to be done by Top Notch has been scheduled, and Floyd Wilkie told her he would get to it when he could. Once the work has been completed, he will give Jess the bill for submission.

**3) Livermore Falls parking area update:**

Jane reported that she contacted Bill Carpenter earlier in the week and asked if he had been in contact with the property owner whose identity and contact information she had provided. Bill hadn't done anything to date and told Jane that he couldn't find the e-mail with the contact information, so Jane resent it to him. Jane communicated to Bill that local support for the project stands, but nothing can be done until the state sets up a meeting with the Becket School and the property owner of the proposed parking area. Jane will continue to stay in touch with Bill on a weekly basis. She told the group that the next Livermore Falls Stakeholders meeting has been rescheduled from Sept 24<sup>th</sup> to Oct 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm, at RMI Inc., in Holderness. Alisoun said she will try to attend the meeting. Liza Tetley said that she was sorry to have to leave the meeting early, but she had another meeting at PSU to attend.

**4) Northern Pass Update:**

The group shared what they knew relative to the proposed Northern Pass project to date. Alisoun read aloud a newspaper announcement of an upcoming open house on Tues Sept 17<sup>th</sup> at The Days Inn from 5:30-8pm. Tammy explained that this was not to be confused with the upcoming scoping meeting where public comments on the project are formally accepted. She went on to read an e-mail from opposition groups who report that the open houses hosted by Northern Pass are in a trade show format with lots of sophisticated materials and computer models that serve as a public relations gesture and a showcase for Northern Pass to get its message out. Many have complained that these open houses do not have an open public question and answer format, but rather, NP representatives engage one or two people in conversation which is strictly limited to how the project will happen.

Tammy reported that the public scoping meeting will be on September 24<sup>th</sup> at PSU's Hanaway Theater from 5-8pm. The scoping meeting is an opportunity for people to express their concerns relative to the amended application for a Presidential permit submitted by Northern Pass, LLC to the Dept. of Energy (DOE) in July. This amended application was filed after the announcement of a new proposed route for the transmission line. The deadline for requesting to speak at the scoping meeting, as well as for submission of written comments is September 18<sup>th</sup>. This deadline also stands for those wishing to file as an intervenor, or consulting party to the project. Tammy said that she was unsure if the Town of Campton has filed for intervenor status since there was no listing of such in the on-line spreadsheet provided by the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), though she was unsure if it was up to date. She said that opposition groups were strongly urging landowners, residents of affected communities, interested organizations, and municipal boards to consider filing for this status if they want to play an ongoing role in the permitting process. Tammy passed around an example of a motion to intervene submitted by the North Country Council which was provided by the CLF to be used as a template for others. All agreed that the CCC should file as an intervenor, regardless of whether other boards in town have done so.

Jess will take the North Country Council motion to intervene template, plug in the relevant CCC information, and send it around for review. Tammy reminded the group that we submitted written comments during the first round of scoping hearings in 2010, and that we should do so in response to the amended application, but questioned whether there was enough time. After discussion it was decided that filing for intervenor status was priority and that we still can submit written comments on DOE's environmental review of Northern Pass as long as we do so by Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. We will schedule a work session to draft a letter together.

#### **5) Constant Contact:**

Tammy passed around a draft newsletter she wrote to be sent as the first friends of the CCC group e-mail. Edits were suggested and made, and Tammy said that she would forward the newsletter to Beverly Chappell who will be handling our group e-mails.

#### **6) Potential Easement:**

Jane gave an update on the ongoing potential easement proposed by a Campton landowner. On Sept 5<sup>th</sup> Jane, Alisoun, and Tammy met informally with the landowner to walk his trails, look at maps and discuss short and long term goals he and his wife have for their property. We learned that the landowner recently purchased a small parcel that abuts his property which he is looking to put a conservation easement on. He is also pursuing an easement on 75 acres and has applied for a NRCS grant under the Wetland Reserve Program. Unfortunately, this program will remain unfunded until a Farm Bill passes, which is why he is pursuing other options for the smaller recently acquired piece. This landowner has been in communication with the CCC over the years as an interested partner in trying to conserve the Campton Bog area. His view is that this easement could serve as a starter project to this end and may subsequently lead to other bog area landowners to follow his example. The kind of help he is looking for from the CCC is assistance and support in reaching out and finding a suitable easement holder, working collaboratively with all parties, and possibly some financial assistance from the Conservation Fund for surveys, legal fees, etc.

At the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting it was agreed that the Pemi-Baker Land Trust (PBLT) would be an appropriate easement holder for this project. Subsequently, Jane has contacted Betty Jo Taffe and we are looking to put a date on the calendar in early October to meet with the landowner and the PBLT.

#### **7) Map Discussion:**

Jane said that Ron Reynolds has completed his volunteer project work with Mae Brosseau in digitizing the town tax maps. Ron is now offering his time and expertise to work on any GIS project needs the CCC has. The group brainstormed some ideas and Jess came up with the idea of combining the proposed Northern Pass route map with the Wildlife Plan data layers. Jane will propose the idea to Ron.

#### **8) Revisit Wildlife Action Plan:**

The group looked at the WAP task and action list created with Malin Clyde and Amanda Stone from the UNH Cooperative Extension last fall. All of the action items have been completed except for the revision of the wildlife chapter in the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). The long term goal is to have this ready for when Campton updates the Town Master Plan. Jane will contact Amanda Stone and ask when she is available to meet and assist us in this project.

#### **9) Mail:**

Alisoun retrieved and opened the CCC mail which included the 2013 Squam Watershed Assessment Report, a DOT Roadway and Railway Activities Notification, the DES Source water Protection Newsletter, and a Northern Pass

open house schedule e-mail that Ann Marie had printed out for us. We also received a flier announcing a presentation by Postdoc Matt Vadeboncoeur titled "Two Centuries of Change in a Central NH Forest". The presentation will be at the Campton Historical Society on Sept. 16, at 7 pm.

Finally, Tammy asked Rebecca Steeves if she is interested in becoming a CCC member. Rebecca responded yes, which was followed by cheers. Tammy will contact Ann Marie to recommend her appointment.

Meeting adjourned: 9:12 pm  
Next meeting Wed., October 9; 7:30pm  
Jane will chair