

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2013; 7:30 p.m.

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

Others present: Campton resident Liza Tetley

1) Minutes:

Jane served as chair and called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. Alisoun made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Jane seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2) Conservation Easement progress:

Jane reported that she, Jess, and Alisoun attended a meeting with a Campton Bog area landowner and representatives from the Pemi Baker Land Trust (PBLT) at Quincy Bog on October 2nd. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of placing a Conservation Easement on a small parcel of the landowner's property which includes a building currently under a 5 year lease. The landowner presented basic information about the property and its conservation value, maps were reviewed, and questions relative to public access and future trail prospects were discussed. The potential for this project as a starter piece to further conservation in the bog area watershed was also covered. PBLT requested copies of maps to include parcels relative to the bog, which Jane provided to them on Monday. PBLT will further review and discuss the project in November and follow up with the landowner and the CCC.

3) Update on CHS/CCC Halloween Walk:

Plans are being finalized for the October 26th Campton Historical Society Halloween walk, to take place at the Blair cemetery beginning at 3:00 pm. Jess reported that Paul Yelle is distributing the flier announcing the details including the CCC Nature walk at the Pattee Conservation Park (PCP) to be led by a Rey Center naturalist. Jess met with Leigh Ann Reynolds from the Rey Center to walk the field and trails and plan an appropriate route. They decided that participants will gather at the easternmost driveway of the cemetery just before 5:00 pm. They will access the side trail entrance of the PCP from the break in the stone wall along Blair Road. Jess thought it would be a good idea to let abutting property owners Clint and Anita Lane know about the walk. She will leave them a note this Saturday when she attends a dry run for the event with Paul.

Jess added that she was glad she walked the trails since they were in bad shape and she was able to clean them up in preparation for the walk. Paul had recently sent an e-mail to the CCC asking if anyone knew where the Pattee field pumpkins had gone.

The group recalled hearing that that the pumpkins had been planted by the school but no one actually saw pumpkins or evidence that they had grown.

Jane asked whether we should somehow maintain the pumpkin area plot by perhaps adding compost to it. She further explained to Liza that the CCC had many times considered the idea of

a community garden for the area but it would be problematic due to a lack of water. Jess added that it would be a great project for an Eagle Scout who could use the Blanchard House to set up a rain barrel system. All agreed that this idea continues to be worthy of ongoing consideration if someone were able to focus on and lead the endeavor.

Jane asked if there would be any newspaper coverage or PR after the Halloween event

Jess said she would ask Paul on Saturday. Alisoun asked what happens if it rains, and Jess said that Sunday October 27th is the rain date. Tammy reminded the group that we have another joint CHS/CCC event before the Halloween walk, which is the Speaking for Wildlife talk on the history of NH wildlife. The presentation to be given by Grafton County Forester Dave Falkenham is on October 21st at 7pm at the CHS.

4. Livermore Falls update:

On September 27th Alisoun met with NH DRED representative Bill Carpenter and Mark Pollard, who owns the land just to the south of the Livermore Falls Campton side property. The meeting was arranged to discuss the possibility of Mr. Pollard selling a portion of his property for the purpose of creating a parking area to access the west side of the Falls. Alisoun had provided the group with a written summary of her meeting notes. She said that Mr. Pollard recalled fond memories of the Falls when he was young and would love to see the area revitalized. Concerns discussed relative to the siting of a parking area included parking area size, drainage issues, utility lines, and lack of visibility due to a curve on Route 3. The DOT Planning Division had offered to draw up map to show how and where the parking lot would fit in. Bill will follow up with DOT and request this conceptual plan. Mark Pollard will talk with the rest of his family about the parking area proposal.

Another Friends of the Pemi meeting was held on October 1st which Jane attended. She reported that Bill Carpenter presented the information from his meeting with Alisoun and Mark Pollard. Additionally, Jane learned that Bill had secured permission to build a pedestrian bridge to access the west side of Livermore Falls from the Railroad ROW folks. He will be getting a DRED construction group to build the bridge. Someone at the meeting had asked about handicap access and since that time Jane wondered about the possibility of incorporating a deck into the pedestrian bridge to allow the handicapped to view the falls area.

The Friends meeting was followed by a DRED hearing on proposed rule changes to State Parks which Jane also attended. The change proposed relative to Livermore Falls was to prohibit alcohol. Jane said a few people spoke out in favor of this change,

and that if implemented it wouldn't be until next year. Jane closed by saying that she had e-mailed her notes from the meetings to Jim Aguiar who had committed to being involved with the Friends group. Jess said that Jim has been away and is likely still catching up on his messages. Jane said she would drop a hard copy of her notes in the mail to Jim.

5. Northern Pass Update:

The CCC has officially filed a request to intervene in the Northern Pass project with the Dept. of Energy. Tammy said that she has been checking the CCC e-mail and there has been no confirmation to date from the DOE relative to this request. We did however, receive an e-mail from a concerned Florida resident who owns a home on Champagne Circle and asked what she can do to voice her opposition. Tammy replied to her e-mail.

Alisoun, Tammy, and pending new CCC member Rebecca Steeves attended the recent Northern Pass scoping hearing in Plymouth. Alisoun and Tammy reported that there was overwhelming opposition present at the meeting. PSU's Hanaway Theatre which seats over 600 appeared full, and there were only about 15-20 people who spoke in favor of the project. Alisoun said that Martha Richards spoke vehemently and at length against the project. Tammy said that it was great to see so many elected officials in opposition. She added that Selectman Marsh Morgan asked the DOE how it plans to address the fact that the transmission lines as proposed will have to go directly through the capped Campton/Thornton landfill which has a specialized protective covering.

The deadline for submitting comments to the DOE is November 5th, and Tammy will begin drafting a letter from the CCC relative to the amended application and circulate it to the group for input. Tammy said that she has organized a Waterville Estates showing of the Northern Trespass documentary for second homeowners at the community center on October 12th.

6.) GIS Mapping/Work session planning:

Jane reported that Ron Reynolds has been working on the GIS project he had offered to do for the CCC. He has been able to access the proposed Northern Pass route maps and is ready to merge this map with Campton natural resource information. He would like the CCC to come to his house for a work session to help refine what information to include in the GIS layers. All agreed that it would be great to overlay all of the wetlands, rivers and streams as well as the information in the Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) onto the Northern Pass route map. This would provide a strong visual for what natural features could be impacted by the project. The group scheduled a work session at Jane and Ron's on October 23rd at 4:45 pm.

7.) Revisit WAP/Revise NRI:

Jane has been in touch with Amanda Stone from UNH Cooperative Extension to revisit our Wildlife Action Plan task list and plan a work session. Amanda wants to look at our current NRI, but we are unable to locate a digital copy of it. Jane will continue working on trying to either get a digital copy, or provide a hard copy for Amanda prior to a work session. Jess suggested trying to get in touch with Stephanie Elson, the Brown University graduate who created the NRI many years ago. Jane also mentioned that she asked May Brosseau for a copy of the Campton Master Plan and May did provide one for her but it was out of date. May has since located the newest version and is making a copy for Jane. The group came up with November work session date possibilities which Jane will propose to Amanda. In order of priority, we are aiming for November 20th, 21st, or 14th, at 5pm. Jess suggested that we take a moment at our October work session to make a list of what to do in preparation for the November work session. Jane added that Amanda will also likely assign us with some homework tasks to that end. All will review their notes from the last WAP work session.

8) NHACC Annual Meeting:

The 43rd annual NH Association of Conservation Commissions meeting will be held on November 2nd this year at the Rundlett Middle School in Concord. Jess may go but would only be able to make the morning sessions. She will get in touch with Rebecca Steeves to see if she is interested. Alisoun is undecided until furlough issues are resolved.

9) Other Business:

Tammy explained that Rebecca e-mailed her saying that she had not yet heard news of her appointment to the CCC. Tammy called Ann Marie and learned that she had not received her September e-mail recommending Rebecca's appointment because it had been sent to Ann Marie's old e-mail address. Tammy resent the e-mail to Ann Marie and we hope to welcome Rebecca to the CCC soon. Jess asked Liza Tetley if she was interested in joining the group. Liza said yes, but she would like to wait until after the spring semester since she will be spending it in Montana. Liza will continue to stay in the loop until then.

Jane asked who was on deck for the next Conservation Matters column, and Jess said that it was Plymouth's turn and she has been in touch with Lisa Doner from the Plymouth CC.

Jess We received a bill from Top Notch for the work completed at the Red Sleigh Inn. noted that it was for \$400, not \$450 as we were quoted.

The Pattee field has been mowed and we are awaiting a bill from Mike Rej.

Mail opened included the NHACC meeting announcement, and a Grafton County Conservation District newsletter.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45pm
Next meeting November 13, 2013 (Jess will chair)
NOTE time change to 7:00 pm!

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster