

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2013; 7pm

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

Others Present: Campton residents Rebecca Steeves and Liza Tetley

Alisoun served as chair in lieu of Jess, who had a family obligation and was running late. Jane made a motion to accept the October minutes and Tammy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

1) Livermore Falls:

Alisoun attended the Friends of the Pemi meeting on November 12th, and passed around notes of the meeting to CCC members for review. Alisoun reported that Ken Evans and Walter Johnson from the Plymouth Rotary are now in charge of the Friends group. A new logo design was approved for use on t-shirts, signs and information materials being produced by PSU marketing and Art classes. T-shirts will be sold to raise money needed to match a grant awarded by Rotary International. Alisoun wondered whether the CCC should make a donation to help meet the match. It was agreed that we should find out how much money still needs to be raised before committing to a contribution.

Alisoun said that there was emphasis on publicizing Livermore Falls, particularly via the web. Alisoun expressed concern that this may change the area from a more locals place to a high use area by visitors. Also discussed was the issue of how to make drinking illegal on the Campton side of the Falls where there is currently no open container law. Bill Carpenter from DRED is looking into this and presumes legislative action will be required. The State may institute a fee for use of the area, which would not have to be legislated.

Alisoun said there were some area equestrians who have shown concern about whether they will be able to ride in the Falls area with all of the new proposed changes. The Friends group also discussed how that the Campton side of the Falls is more complicated to deal with, given the railroad and mill issues, and considered whether the Holderness side work should be completed first. Alisoun said that she was glad she was there to speak up on behalf of Campton, but she was the only one to represent the town's interests and feels a stronger voice is needed to insure the Campton side of the falls gets equal consideration. She asked if anyone knew whether there were any Campton residents on the Rotary. Jane mentioned that she e-mailed Jim Aguiar after last month's Friends meeting, and also sent him a hard copy of the meeting notes. Jane added that Chief Warn recently expressed a renewed willingness to help, having been absent due to health issues. Alisoun will forward her meeting notes to both Chief Warn and Jim Aguiar, and notify them of the next meeting on December 3rd.

Alisoun said that there were two PSU students at the meeting who are working on 2 Pemi River related school projects, which will be presented on Dec 3rd at 2:30, before the 3:00 Friends meeting. The last items discussed were two upcoming Friends Group events scheduled for 2014. There will be a charette in January, the date is to be announced, and surveys before and after the charette will be sent out. The PSU Annual Watershed Conference will be on March 31, at which the Friends group plans to give a presentation.

Jane asked whether Bill Carpenter provided any update on the proposed parking area, to which Alisoun said no, other than that a map of potential sites was provided.

2) Northern Pass:

Tammy reported that the CCC letter she wrote in response to Northern Pass' amended Presidential Permit application was submitted in time, before the November 5th deadline. She also said that a newly announced competitor project called Clean Power Link is making headlines and putting to rest Northern Pass' claims that burial of the lines is cost prohibitive, since the new project as proposed will be completely buried. Alisoun asked that the minutes reflect that the CCC thanked Tammy for her letter.

3) CCC Work Session Recap:

A work session was held at Jane's on October 23rd, where we reviewed Ron Reynold's ongoing volunteer GIS work. Ron showed us how he merged the proposed Northern Pass route map and the Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) habitat map with the town's tax maps. Ron's work provided a strong visual showing that the Northern Pass route would go directly through one of the highest ranked habitats in Campton. Through Ron's mapping we were also able to see the extent of visual impact of the towers, one of which would stand on or near our Farmers Market site. This work session served to

add several talking points for Tammy's Northern Pass opposition letter. At the end of the work session we briefly prepared for our next work session to be held on November 20th at 5:00 at Jane's. We will meet with Amanda Stone from UNH Cooperative Ext. to work on updating Campton's Natural Resource Inventory to include WAP data.

4) Land Management:

BWNA:

Jane said that she ran into Jules who offered to help with closing the BWNA parking lot. Jules still has the cable and said to give him a call when we are ready to put it up. Jane will take care of this with Jules. Jane said that there were two trees down along the trails that needed chain saw work, and a board was missing from the bigger of the two bridges. Jess came into the meeting at this point and said she would take care of the trees with a bow saw. Jane will ask Ron if he has something to replace the missing board. Jane added that the DOT had taken care of the problem tree along Rte. 3.

PCP:

Jess said that the Halloween History Walk event was attended by 50-100 people. She said it was a great event overall, but that next time The CCC walk should be more integrated with the Historical Society events, rather than take place at the end, since the number of participants dwindled. There were about 10 people who came along on the PCP nature walk at dusk and the Rey Center did a great job as naturalists keeping the group engaged. Leigh Reynolds from the Rey Center forwarded an invoice to Jess via e-mail and Jess submitted it to Ann Marie for payment. Leigh Ann also pitched the idea of finding out if there was a conservation-minded person buried at the Blair cemetery, to serve as a capturing lead in conversation to the PCP walk next year. All agreed this would be worthwhile pursuing.

Jess mentioned that the blazes on the PCP trails are fading, and she will look for some yellow paint. While on the subject of PCP trails, Jess shared an idea she had about exploring potential partnerships with DRED and The Forest Service to merge and expand the trails on both the PCP and Blair State Forest. The group recalled trying to pursue the idea in the past, when we met and walked around both properties with someone from the Division of Forest and Lands. The proposal was not recommended, but we couldn't recall on what grounds. Jess thought that with the Forest Service Headquarters now located so close to both PCP and BWNA, these properties could serve as places for Forest Service led programs. Alisoun said that there was new man working with Bill Carpenter named Eric who may be able to help. Alisoun will e-mail Bill and ask what he thinks of the idea.

5) 2013 Budget Review/2014 Budgeting

Ann Marie provided a printout of the CCC 2013 budget to date which the group reviewed together. There is a balance of \$299.33 out of \$1,085. Jane explained the difference between the operating budget and the Conservation Fund (CF) to Rebecca and Liza. It was decided to regroup some of the budgeting categories. The Dues category will cover dues paid to The Pemi River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC), the NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC), and the NH Assoc. of Natural Resource Scientists (NHANRS). Our preliminary budget figure for this category is \$515, including an increase in NHACC dues. We will keep the Conferences/Education budget figure at \$200. We will keep the Misc. category and propose a figure of \$300 which may include small property maintenance expenditures. We will also continue to make larger property maintenance expenditures such as mowing from the CF. This 1,015 preliminary budget proposal figure may change after we take accounting of brochure reprint needs. Tammy asked whether we need to purchase anything toward material displays in our new space in the lobby. The group took a look at the space together and brainstormed ideas. All agreed that it would be great to create a conservation themed display in the glass case. Liza offered to talk to her roommate who may be able to help, perhaps taking it on as a school project. Jane will research brochure stand costs and report back.

6) NHACC Conference:

Jess attended two workshops at the NHACC conference, both of which she said were excellent. She enjoyed the keynote speaker, a social scientist and bullying expert, who spoke of how to effectively deal with angry people. One workshop focused on maximizing partnerships in getting conservation work done. This got Jess thinking about the many services and resources the North Country Council has to offer, and how membership with the group would benefit the entire town. Jess gave an example of how the Rockingham Planning Commission provided a GIS overlay of wetland crossings to the Town of Sandown in reviewing a large timber harvest proposal. Campton lost membership status with the NCC because the Select Board voted not to pay the membership fee. All agreed that we should look into rejoining this group, perhaps even sharing the cost of the membership fee with the town. The other workshop hosted by NH Public Radio's environmental reporter Sam Evans Brown focused on how to best communicate Conservation Commission work to the public. Jess said that we are

ahead of the curve, using our Constant Contact and Conservation Matters column as messengers.

7) Conservation Matters Column:

PRLAC is scheduled to submit the next column, and the Rumney CC and The Quincy Bog are on deck. Alisoun suggested that we add the Friends of the Pemi group to the submitters list. Jane will propose the idea at the Dec 3rd Friends meeting, and Jess will take care of any rotating schedule changes needed.

8) Next Work Session prep:

Amanda Stone had requested some materials from the CCC for review ahead of our Nov 20th work session. Jane gave Jess a paper copy of the Campton Master Plan, and some NRI verbage in electronic format which Jess hand delivered to Amanda at the NHACC conference. Jane will e-mail Amanda asking her if she needs anything else from us before our work session. We meet at Jane's at 5pm.

9) Constant Contact e-mail :

It was decided not to send a newsletter to our e-mail list this month. We plan only to send e-mails when we need to notify our friends group of upcoming events. When we do send a newsletter we will take the opportunity to summarize our ongoing CCC work.

10) Other/FYI:

A brief discussion was had about whether to host another Frozen Bog Walk in January. All agreed it was a good idea, and that we should contact former CC member and wildlife tracker Lea Stewart to see if she would be willing to lead a walk again this year.

There has been no response to date from the Pemi Baker Land Trust regarding the potential for facilitating a conservation easement in the Bog Pond area.

Mike Rej has not submitted a bill yet for his PCP mowing work. Tammy will follow up on this.

Mail opened included a renewal form for NHACC membership, and a DES newsletter. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

**Next Meeting: December 11, 2013;7pm
Jess will chair**

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster