

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2013; 7pm

Members Present: Jess Halm, Alisoun Hodges, Jane Kellogg, Rebecca Steeves

Others Present: Campton resident Liza Tetley

Jess served as Chair.

1) Alisoun moved to accept the November minutes. Jess seconded. All were in favor.

2) Updates:

- a. Livermore Falls: Jane and Rebecca had attended the most recent meeting of the Friends of the Pemi/Livermore Falls on Dec. 3. It followed a presentation by 2 PSU students presenting their project on Livermore Falls. They followed a format: SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). They had done research, talked with folks concerned with the area, and made recommendations. The meetings of the group are now being led by the Plymouth Rotary. They have received a \$4,000 grant from the national Rotary, but needs to raise matching funds by May in order to receive it. \$500 is raised so far. The Friends group is developing a logo and plans to print T shirts. There was discussion, and a small working committee will make final decisions. A visioning session (or charette) is being planned for sometime in February, to be lead by Steve Whitman. Date, location, times, etc TBA soon. There was discussion about getting the word out to a wide range of folks to involve in the session. The group plans to be contributor to the February "Conservation Matters" column to bring attention to the group's effort and the visioning session. Ben Wilson (DRED) introduced Patrick Hummel to the group. He is a new employee who will gradually become the contact person for the Friends group. Bill Carpenter was unable to be at the meeting, but Ben reported that the letter the group sent to the DRED director was viewed as "fantastic" and should help in keeping state attention on the project. He also reported on progress on the Campton side of the river in terms of improved parking and potential RR crossing. The CCC discussed potential sources of support and other methods of getting contributions toward the Rotary grant.
- b. Northern Pass: Tammy sent recent email communications to the meeting. After the SEC hearings Tammy had attended, there have also been some recent community workshop meetings(Manchester, Groveton, Plymouth, etc) to communicate current situations, recent test drilling, etc. Since there are no current actions needed, there was little communication among commissioners.
- c. Conservation Matters column: Jess reported that Quincy Bog/PBLT submitted an article for December. The Rumney CC was scheduled for January, but that has been changed to an article by PSU environmental student, Shelley Garber's summary of a GIS project done in Thornton. He'd studied recent

flooding data since Irene, and added information to Thornton's flood maps to also include streams contributing to the river. The Friends of the Pemi/Livermore Falls will write the Feb column. Rumney CC will take March. Then the rotation will begin again.

- d. New CCC member, Rebecca Steeves has been recently sworn in.
- e. In January, Tammy will send an updated membership listing to B. Chappell for the website.
- f. The Land Stewardship Committee of the Pemi Baker Land Trust has made a determination re the conservation easement request by a Campton landowner. They have decided not to pursue the project. The property is not contiguous with other preserved properties, is of small size and they believe the property could have difficulties with monitoring the easement in the future due to some ongoing business under a limited lease agreement. The PBLT is still eager to work with the CCC in land protection efforts, especially in the Bog Pond watershed area. There was discussion about meeting in 2014 with the PBLT to set collaborative goals. Alisoun will contact the group to set a meeting.
- g. Alisoun had contacted Eric Feldbaum, working for DRED as Community Recreation Specialist, after meeting him at a November Friends of the Pemi meeting. The CCC had thoughts about potential recreational trails on Pattee Conservation Park and Blair State Forest. With the WMNF headquarters nearby, there might be more interest than a few years ago, when the CCC had reached out to the Division of Parks and Forest (manages Blair SF) and there was no interest on the part of the state. Jess will follow up with contacting them again to see if there might be interest in some sort of collaborative effort at this time.

3) **Land Management:**

- a. BWNA Jules Doner and a friend have put up the winter parking signs and cables. Jane will take care of sending a thank you to Jules for his help! Jess reported she took a hand saw and cut up a couple of trees that had come down over the trails. She also reported there are a couple of nails sticking up on the larger bridge.
- b. PCP: The mowing bill (\$ 425) has been paid to M Rej from the Conservation Fund. The Rey Center has proposed the idea of creating a native plants garden there in 2014. They thought of including the elementary school, as they did with growing pumpkins. There was discussion about whether it would be the After School program again, or through a science class. Transportation and watering concerns were discussed. There was also discussion about involving the Campton Garden Club as a community collaborator. Tammy and Rebecca will follow up with various groups and bring forth proposal ideas.

4) **Nov 20th work session with Amanda Stone(UNH) and Emma Carcagno(Taking Action for Wildlife)** to begin work on the Wildlife Action Plan – NRI revision project. Jane reported she'd asked May to notify the Planning Board of the project, and that this work could contribute to the revision of the Master Plan chapters on Natural Resources and Water Resources, when they are being worked on. May had reported that the PB plans to begin discussing a Master Plan revision at their January

work session on Jan 7. The CCC scheduled to meet on Jan, 15, 2014 for the next work session on NRI revision. Time and location TBA. At that time, the group will review recommended first steps, decide on a general timeframe and next steps, and discuss how to involve other interested residents in the project for the short term.

5) **Budget Review/ 2014 proposal.**

- a. There remains about \$280 in the current 2013 budget.
- b. As discussed at the November meeting, Jane made some brochure display purchases and they were out for view and some are now in the town hall lobby. There were not enough to display all of the Wildlife Habitat brochure handouts, so Jane will purchase 4 more and submit receipts to Ann Marie for reimbursement.
- c. The proposed 2014 figures discussed in November were reviewed and line item descriptions were discussed. It was decided to include 3 various dues/memberships(NHACC: \$245; PRLAC: \$250; Assn of Nat. Resource Scientists: \$20) into one category called Dues for \$ 515. Conferences/Education materials, etc: \$250; Small Property Management expenses: \$200; Misc Postage, Printing, Supplies: \$100. The total amount proposed is \$1,065, which is \$20 less than the 2013 budget appropriated. Jane and Jess will take budget numbers to the Selectboard after making an appointment through Ann Marie.

6) **Email to Constant Contact friends:** Tammy will send an email letter sometime after the New Year. The list of subjects at this point will be: date for Frozen Bog Walk(see below); NRI revision working group invitations and next steps; details for the visioning session for Livermore Falls; appeal for matching funds for Livermore Falls improvements.

7) **Frozen Bog Walk/winter tracking:** Lea Stewart has agreed to lead the walk again this winter. She is unable to schedule for Jan 17 or 24. Feb 2 was suggested. Jane will contact her to schedule a date. (The date is confirmed for Feb. 2, 2-4 PM.)

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:45 PM.

**Next Meeting: January 8, 2014; 7pm
Jane will chair**