

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2014; 7pm th
(Rescheduled from 2/12 due to Budget Hearing conflict)

Members present: Jess Halm, Alisoun Hodges, Tammy Wooster

Others present: Holly Burbank, Shelly Garber

Jess served as chair and welcomed Holly and Shelly to the meeting. Holly Burbank explained that she came to introduce herself as a candidate for the Town Clerk position. She went on to say that in recognition of her potential role as an issuing agent of conservation related permits, she looks forward to working closely with the CCC. She continued to explain her relevant Town Clerk experience and asked for our support in electing her. Holly was thanked for coming and she and Shelly left the meeting.

1. Minutes:

Alisoun made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes and Jess seconded the motion. All were in favor.

2. In Memory of Jules:

Jess proposed the idea that we formally acknowledge Jules' contribution to the CCC by creating some kind of memorial. She said that she had been thinking of ways to do this and suggested naming the PCP field perimeter path after Jules, since he so diligently kept the path mowed throughout the summer. The group loved this idea of honoring Jules' memory and agreed that we should proceed with sign making plans. Jess will clear the idea with Jules family first.

3. Livermore Falls Update:

Alisoun reported that she was unable to attend the February 13th Friends of the Pemi Livermore Falls Chapter meeting. She went on to say that minutes are usually circulated a few days after each meeting but she has yet to receive any follow up information. Additionally, Shelagh Connelly had sent around a letter that the town of Holderness was including in their Town Report. The letter summarized the Livermore Falls initiative and the Plymouth Rotary's efforts to secure matching grant funds. Shelagh requested that surrounding towns print this same letter in their town reports. The CCC had already written their annual report which included mention of the The Livermore Falls project. We also sent out a call for help in raising money for this purpose in our e-newsletter.

4. Conservation Matters:

Jess reported that the latest Conservation Matters column had been submitted by the Friends of the Pemi Livermore Falls Chapter and we should be on the lookout for it in the paper this week. The Pemi group expressed interest in writing another article to inform citizens about the ongoing Livermore Falls project. Next month Rumney will be the contributor, and then the rotating schedule will start over beginning with Holderness, and then Campton. Jess asked that we begin thinking about our column submission for May.

5. Town Voting/Meeting Planning:

Alisoun had the idea of providing a handout of Shelagh Connelly's Friends of the Pemi Livermore Chapter summary to voters/town meeting attendees. Due to unknown work/family schedules all agreed that it may not be possible for one of us to be present to distribute handouts and answer questions. It was decided that we would create a display highlighting the 2013 and ongoing CCC projects. A list of what to include was discussed, and work tasks were divided. Jess will ask Ann Marie about display space, and will also send around an e-mail recapping who is responsible for each display item.

6. Blair State Forest/PCP Trails:

Jess shared the e-mail response she received from Bob Hardy regarding the possibility of creating a PCP/Blair State Forest merged trail network. Bob said that the State Forest is already open to the public and is managed as a multi-use property. Once a trail system is established, allowable activities such as hunting and timber management potentially conflict with groups such as dog walkers. Alisoun agreed that a state forest is managed differently than a state park. Jess appreciated Bob's clear explanation but wish this information had been provided the first time the idea was proposed by the CCC. Jess added that perhaps we could post an educational display on the PCP/State Forest boundary explaining the value of managing a forest for timber. She will propose this idea to Bob in a follow up e-mail.

7. Bog Walk Recap:

With great weather and a turnout of 16 people, all agreed that the second annual winter walk on Campton Bog was a successful event. On Feb 2nd, Lea Stewart led the group around the bog in search of wildlife sign. A wasp nest, and tracks of red and gray fox, squirrel, mice, snowshoe hare, and a short tailed shrew were observed. Alisoun pulled a thank you card from the CCC supply shelf and it was signed by all for Lea. Jess wrote a follow-up article detailing the event and submitted it to The Record Enterprise.

8. Rey Center PCP Native Plant Garden status:

Since our last meeting, Leigh Ann Reynolds from the Rey Center contacted CES science teachers proposing the idea of collaborating on a native plant garden at the PCP. The idea was well received but due to the grant application deadline, it was decided to postpone the project until next year. Jane had suggested that we meet with the teachers to discuss the project before the end of this school year so that we can hit the ground running in the fall. Tammy will contact Leigh Ann and ask if she has heard back from the teachers regarding a meeting date. Tammy suggested that if willing, Rebecca would serve best as the CCC lead on the project, since she is a science teacher.

9. FYI:

After our Town Master Plan revision work, it was agreed that we will focus on website updates. Jess asked if anyone had conflicts with the 2014 meeting dates and times. It was agreed that for the sake of simplicity, we will keep all meeting times at 7pm throughout the year.

Tammy passed around and then filed a copy of a confirmation of consulting party status to the Northern Pass project. She also read aloud an update detailing the various bills before the legislature relative to line burial and the Site Evaluation Committee review.

The rest of the meeting was dedicated to working on reviewing edits to the Town Master Plan Natural Resource Chapters that Jane provided.

Meeting adjourned: 9:06pm
Next meeting March 12, 2014; 7pm (Alternate date TBA)
Alisoun will chair

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster