

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2014; 7pm

Members Present: Jess Halm, Alisoun Hodges, Rebecca Steeves, Tammy Wooster

Others Present: Jack Dorsey, Roger LaRochelle

1) Roger LaRochelle: Squam Lakes Conservation Society:

Jane served as chair and opened the meeting at 7:05, with an introduction of Roger Larochelle from the Squam lakes Conservation Society (SLCS) . Roger came to ask for the CCC's help in spreading the word about an upcoming community forum hosted by the SLCS. The forum will take place on April 17th at the Campton Historical Society from 6-9 pm, and a light dinner will be provided. The purpose of the forum is to gather information from local residents who may have knowledge about the Beebe River Tract, a 5,435 acre tract of land in the towns of Campton and Sandwich currently owned by Yankee Forest LLC. The Beebe River Tract is under contract to be purchased by The Conservation Fund, a national non-profit conservation organization. Roger explained the importance of the property as having a range of ecosystem types with great connectivity, serving as high value wildlife habitat, and recreation potential. Jess asked how many of the 5,435 acres were in Campton to which Roger answered about 4,000. Roger added that there will also be community forums held in Holderness and Sandwich.

The SLCS wants to know what this land means to residents, how they use it now and what uses they envision for the land in the future. He went on to point out the rich history of the Beebe River Railroad and hopes that residents will share their historical knowledge and stories relative to the railroad. Roger handed out poster announcements of the event to the group and asked that the CCC post them at visible public places around town. A list of places was brainstormed and assigned to all. CCC members will also bake cookies to share at the forum. Roger thanked the CCC for helping to spread the word, and all expressed thanks and excitement about the Beebe River Tract soon to be put into conservation.

2) March Minutes:

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

3) Updates:

a. Friends of the Pemi/Livermore Falls Group:

Alisoun and Jane attended the recent Livermore Falls visioning sessions hosted by the Plymouth Rotary. There was a good turnout with about 40 attendees at each of the 2 sessions. Jane and Alisoun explained the S.W.O.T. approach, a formal survey technique used to parse information from a group about a wide variety of subjects. The S.W.O.T. acronym stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Attendees were broken into groups and asked to assess the topics of recreation, environment and history relative to Livermore Falls using the SWOT method. Subsequently, each group ranked their results in order of importance and then presented their findings. Alisoun and Jane said that the sessions were well run and informative and were surprised to learn that the information gleaned from each of the sessions was very different. Alisoun added that after all of the meetings she has attended, there are still new perspectives being brought to the table, such as the idea from one man to utilize the falls for a hydroelectric dam. Jane said that what the two sessions had in common was that all who attended agreed that the area is worth preserving and that assuring safety should be a priority. Tammy asked how the information from the sessions will be made public and Jane said that she assumes a report of some kind will be forthcoming.

Jane and Alisoun also reported that they attended the 4/7 Historical Society meeting to bring the group up to date on the Livermore Falls project. They learned that there is talk of utilizing a PSU student to create a display using Historical Society artifacts.

The next Livermore Falls meeting will be on Wednesday April 16th, 1:00 pm @RMI in Holderness. None of the CCC members thought they could make the meeting but Jack Dorsey expressed interest and said he would check his calendar.

b. Rumney CC/Quincy Bog Conservation Workshop:

Jane shared an announcement of a May 3rd workshop co-sponsored by the The Pemi Baker Land Trust and the Rumney CC to be held at the Russell Elementary School in Rumney. The workshop is for landowners who may be considering conserving their land and want more information about options available. Topics to be covered include stewardship, liability and easements and presenters include representatives from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests and the NH Timberlands Assoc. The CCC has been asked to help spread the word of this event and Jane suggested that we send an announcement to some of the larger landowners in town. Jane will create a landowner list, and draft a cover letter to send with the announcement by April 24th.

c. Conversations with Nik Coates:

Jane and Jess recapped their recent conversations with the new director of the NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) Nik Coates. While working on revisions to Chapter 8 of the Master Plan, Jane questioned a table containing figures of the percentage of Campton lands in conservation. She called Nik and he sent her a statewide list of lands

in conservation broken down by town. Jane thought that an interesting future project would be to see how Campton ranked in comparison with other surrounding towns.

Jess also shared a conversation that she had with Nik Coates when he recently contacted her after hearing about the Conservation Matters Column project. Nik asked if he could feature the project in an upcoming NHACC newsletter, to which Jess said yes. He also asked Jess if she would be willing to serve on an outreach/education committee for the NHACC. Jess said that she didn't have time and asked the group if anyone else wanted to serve. All regrettably declined due to lack of time. Finally, Nik asked if the CCC would be interested in being a co-leader of a fall NHACC conference workshop featuring creative ways to communicate conservation work to people. All agreed that this was a possibility.

d. Master Plan Chapter 8:

Jane reported that she submitted the CCC revised Chapter 8 of the Town Master Plan to the Planning Board prior to their April 1st meeting, but that time did not allow for discussion. The CCC is now working on Chapter 10 and Jane will resend the chapter to the group for edits.

4) Land Management:

a. BWNA:

An employee turnover is underway at the Rey Center, and the CCC received an e-mail from Education Coordinator Leigh Ann Reynolds that she will be leaving on April 12th. Leigh Ann explained in her e-mail that the Rey Center Summer programs will be covered by a seasonal educator until a replacement is named. Leigh Ann said that the Rey Center is still planning to offer Nature Nights at Blair Woodland and has the event on their calendar. The Calendar posting lists CGSB and the CCC as co-sponsors. It was agreed that we will take a vote at our next meeting on whether and how much to expend from the Conservation Fund for Nature Nights. Alisoun asked what the status of the PCP Native Plant Garden project was. Tammy said that she responded to Leigh Ann's e-mail and asked whether this proposal was still on the table. Leigh Ann responded that she was passing along all of the correspondence relative to the project to her replacement.

b. PCP:

Plans still need to be finalized about how to maintain the PCP perimeter path, since Jules was responsible for this task. Jess said that she is willing to do a "test run" with her push mower to see what kind of time/effort commitment is involved. Tammy said she would be willing to be part of rotating mowing team.

c. Roadside Cleanup:

Our spring Roadside cleanup will take place on Sunday, May 4th at 9 am. Alisoun pointed out that the March minutes list May 9th as the date. Tammy will change the date before submitting the minutes to Hannah. Jess cannot make the cleanup, but will pick up the bags and vests from the Thornton DOT garage, and submit the event for posting in the Record Enterprise Talk of the Towns. Alisoun offered to take care of the cleanup on the Rte 3 side, since we won't be able to access the stretch via the Blair Bridge. Tammy explained that she recently learned of a Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) Information meeting to be held at The Pease Library on the same day. She explained that the meeting is for Select Board members along the proposed Northern Pass route but it is also open to the public and she would like to attend instead of participating in the cleanup. All agreed it was a good idea.

5. Other Business/FYI:

A note for Brian Middlekauf was passed around and signed by the group, thanking him for his work rewriting the Geology section of Chapter 8 in the Master Plan.

We recently received the password from Ann Marie for the wireless internet access. Jess tested the connection and it worked.

Mail received included an announcement for a North Country Council Scenic Byways Inventory Workshop on 4/28 at the Campton town office from 4:30 to 5:30pm.

Also received was a DES Wetlands Bureau Utility Maintenance Notification Form for vegetative maintenance of ROW, and the Grafton County Conservation District 2013 Annual Report.

Jess thanked Jack Dorsey for coming and asked if he had any questions. Jack said that he would like to attend more CCC meetings and that he is involved in many things at the moment and needs to figure out how to spend his time.

Meeting adjourned: 8:50pm
Next meeting May 14, 2014;7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster

