

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2014;7pm

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

Others present: Jack Dorsey, Ann Verow, Sherry Holmes

Jane served as chair and opened the meeting at 7:00 pm, with introductions of all present.

1) Rey Center/BWNA Nature Nights 2014 Programming:

Jess welcomed Sherry Holmes, the new program director for the Rey Center, who came to update the CCC on the Nature Nights plan for this summer. Jess explained that the CCC had held off on taking a vote to assist with the funding of Nature Nights until things settled down with the Rey Center staffing changes. In the meantime, Jess had a conversation with Leah Gray who generously offered to donate \$100 toward the Nature Nights program at BWNA.

Sherry explained that she is currently the sole staff at the Rey Center until the Board decides to hire additional help. She has been trying to come up to speed with the programs already planned for 2014, including enrichment and after school programs in Waterville Valley and Campton, and Nature Nights at BWNA. She then passed around a handout detailing the planned dates, time, and content of the 8 Nature Nights planned throughout July and August. Jane asked Sherry if she had been to BWNA and Sherry said yes, a couple of times, and thought it was a nice property. Sherry asked if there was safe access to the river to which Jess answered there used to be, before high flows deposited large logs near the flat rock area which served as access. She added that Sherry could judge her audience and decide whether they would be up for climbing through the debris. Alisoun asked if we could clean it up and Jane responded that the deed restrictions were specific about minimal cutting, and her view is that the deposited debris could be used as a tool to teach about natural river processes. She added that the sandy shoreline area seems to have diminished and the eddy is now deeper.

Alisoun asked what ages the program is designed for, and Sherry said Nature Nights will be for families with children of all ages. Jess said that she had called Lisa Ash to ask if Nature Nights could be added to the Parks and Rec program flier, but it had just gone to the printer. Jess gave Lisa some copies of the Nature Nights flier and asked Lisa to distribute it to Campton school kids, starting with the younger grades. Jess said she will post the rest at the usual visible spots around town. Ann Verow suggested we add the Pease library to the list. Jess said she likes the idea of announcing the topics ahead of time which may attract families to attend on nights that have a program of interest. Jane suggested posting the schedule of topics at the trail head kiosk. Jane asked about financial status of the program and what amount of money the Rey Center was requesting to assist with funding. Sherry said \$500, and that the Rey Center had also secured CGSB as a

sponsor. Jess made a motion to mobilize \$ 400 from the Conservation Fund in addition to Leah Gray's \$100 donation, totaling \$500 to help fund Nature Nights at BWNA. Alisoun seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Sherry said that while at BWNA she observed several dead pines on the property that could pose a safety risk, and that they will eventually have to be dealt with. All agreed that we should take a closer look, and consult Ian Halm on the matter. Jane asked Sherry if there was a trail guide in the mailbox and Sherry said yes. Jane explained that Melissa Greenawalt created the trail guide as part of her graduate work, and Sherry said that it was well done and she will likely use it in her program. Alisoun said that the Forest Service will not be running their summer nature program for kids this year and that if she receives inquiries from past participants she will refer them to Nature Nights. Sherry was thanked by all and left the meeting.

2) Project Reporting:

a). Livermore Falls:

Jane reported that she attended last week's most recent Friends of Livermore Falls meeting.

The meeting was not well attended, but was preceded with a walk on the Holderness side of the river where Jane said there are 6 new picnic tables, some trash barrels, and a portable outhouse. She learned that grills will be installed next. There were a few families enjoying the beach area, and a Police officer was present. There was a couple there who recently moved into an abutting house on the corner and who engaged the group in conversation. Jane said that they were very interested in the recent Friends Group activity and said that they have been regularly picking up trash and have observed people drinking. Jane said that they invited the couple to the meeting at RMI, and they accepted.

Jane explained that as a result of the recent Visioning Sessions, an Executive Committee has been formed, and she has been asked to serve on the committee as the Campton representative. Additionally, three sub-committees were formed, with a chair serving for each. The three named are the Historical, Recreation, and Environmental committees. The 3 chairs will be pooling people to talk about the tasks and action items planned for the coming months. Alisoun will serve on the Historical Committee, as will Paul Yelle and Vicky Kelly.

Jane said that there was discussion about the condition of the Campton side of the river

since the recent high water events. Debris has been washed up and slammed against the mill remains, and a pit has been gouged out between the beach and the mill. Add to this the recent brush cutting left in place and new graffiti and the whole area is an ugly mess. Jane expressed concern over the mess and safety of the area and thinks more high water events will eventually lead to the mill falling in. This led her to wondering what the area would look like without the mill at all, and whether it could ever return to a more natural state. Jane said that perhaps the solution would be to leave a small portion of the mill in place to preserve and display the historic significance of the site. Jess added that photos of the mill would serve the same purpose. Jane said that at the meeting she suggested that the state get some professional hydrologists and or engineers involved to identify the likely fate of the mill relative to natural processes and advise the Friends group as to what should be done. There was a man at the meeting whose role was to serve as a link between the Friends Group and state agencies and she believes that that the mill discussion will be communicated. Jane closed by saying this long term project is ongoing and that word of the Friends Group work is spreading. She asked if anyone has noticed the Friends of the Pemi banners hung on the downtown Plymouth light poles. Alisoun shared a copy of the Local Foods publication, which contains a Livermore Falls article.

b). Halloween Walk:

Jess recapped a recent e-mail received from Paul Yelle detailing plans and potential CCC involvement in this year's Halloween History Walk. The plan is to identify a person buried in Blair Cemetery who is somehow connected with conservation, and someone will take on this persona. Concern was expressed that this person's burial site be in close proximity to the others planned for the walk. Jane asked Ann Verow who in town may have the historic knowledge to assist us. Ann suggested Ann Knowles or Martha Aguiar. Jess will work with Martha to research who is buried there. Jane suggested that perhaps an ancestor of one of the large landowners in town could serve to speak to a conservation ethic.

All liked Jane's idea.

c). Northern Pass:

Tammy reported that she read in the Select Board minutes that Charlie Wheeler has looked into how to apply for intervenor status in the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) process once Northern Pass files for SEC approval. She said that at last month's meeting she incorrectly reported that SEC informational meeting organizer Susan Schibanoff would be meeting individually with towns along the proposed Northern Pass route. Tammy followed up with Susan requesting that the CCC be notified when she comes to Campton. Susan replied that this is not the case, but representatives from some more northern towns will be reaching out and organizing soon. Tammy also reported that the Section 106 process has been initiated, and that the CCC has applied for and is named as a consulting party. She explained that the U.S. Dept of

Energy (DOE) is holding meetings on June 19th and 20th to seek information from consulting parties relative to historic properties or significant archaeological sites in their town. Any property listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic places is considered historic. Tammy asked if anyone was aware of any such places in town and Alisoun pulled out the map of the proposed Northern Pass route for all to look at. All agreed that the Historical Society (CHS) should be consulted and wondered if their membership has applied for section 106 consulting party status. Tammy explained that only named consulting party individuals may participate in the Sec 106 process, but that we could ask the CHS, and communicate on their behalf if any sites are identified. Additionally, if we are unable to attend the meetings, comments may be submitted in writing, as long as they are in by July 18th. Tammy will follow up with Paul Yelle and report back.

d). PCP:

Jess reported that she mowed the PCP walking path for the first time of the summer, and it took about an hour. There was a small patch of poison ivy that she mowed over in hopes of knocking it back. She also cleared the wooded trails. Tammy will mow the path next within the next week or so.

e). Conservation Matters Column:

Plymouth is up next for submitting the Conservation Matters column. Jess said that she sent an e-mail as a reminder, but has yet to receive anything. She held up two thank you notes that will be sent from the CCC: One for Don Buso who contributed last month's column on behalf of Campton, and one for Leah Gray.

f.) Pemi Landowner Outreach:

Jane said that she sent a spreadsheet of landowners with greater than 50 acres to Beth Ann Finlay of the Grafton County Conservation District. Beth Ann was one of the presenters at the recent Pemi River Drinking Water Initiative meeting who asked the CCC to identify potential landowners who may benefit from money available for water quality related land improvement and conservation measures. Jane, Jess, and Tammy all shared the names of landowners they have reached out to and had discussions with. The CCC will continue to spread the word about this initiative.

4.) Plan Next Steps for NRI Revision Project:

Planning for the next work session was discussed. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)

updating work was begun months ago, but then put aside due to the need to revise and submit the Natural Resource chapters of the Town Mater Plan for the Planning Board. We are now ready to resume the NRI update work. The goal of the work session will be to review what we learned from our last meeting with Cooperative Extension representatives who helped advise and plan our work. Rebecca, asked that we assign something for her to do since she could not make our meeting, so Jane will ask that she host our work session and propose some dates. Tammy said that she will be on vacation for the August regular CCC meeting, and proposed that we do not meet that month unless someone wants to cover the minutes. It was decided that we would not have an August meeting.

5. Other:

Alisoun said that in light of the hazardous conditions on the Campton side of Livermore Falls, she feels strongly that a sign should be posted. She will contact Patrick Hummel of DRED Division of Parks and Recreation and propose the idea.

Mail was opened and included a DES Emergency Authorization Verification for Mad River bank stabilization on Campton Village Water Supply property. Also received were two DES Subsurface Systems Bureau applications returned due to missing information, and a History and Economics of the NH Dairy Industry book.

Jane closed the meeting by asking Jack Dorsey since he had been to a few of our meetings, had he any interest in becoming a member? Jack explained that he may be moving to VT and will be spending most of his time readying his house for sale. He also expressed interest in receiving CCC communication, and hopes to walk/run the proposed Northern Pass route and will report back anything he learns. Jack and Ann were thanked for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 9:08.

Next meeting: July 9, 7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster

