

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

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

The meeting opened at 7:00 with Jess serving as chair. Jess made a motion to accept the June meeting minutes. Alisoun seconded the motion and all were in favor.

1) Livermore Falls:

Alisoun updated the group on Livermore Falls news. She and Jane recently attended a Friends of the Pemi-Livermore Falls Chapter picnic at Livermore Beach to celebrate the progress made and kick-off the season. Alisoun said the picnic was well attended and the new neighbors that have expressed interest in the Friends Group were there.

Alisoun also reported that she received an e-mail from Tink Taylor that the newly formed Historical Committee is getting ready to meet soon and Alisoun will attend as a committee member.

Alisoun asked the group if they had been receiving the e-mail correspondence relative to safety and signage on the Campton side of the falls. After the recent heavy rains and brush cutting work, the site is becoming more hazardous which prompted Alisoun to request that the State post some hazard signs. Alisoun said that the response was that all involved seem to agree on the importance of posting signs and she is confident that it will happen but hopes it will be soon. Jess said thank you to Alisoun for continuing to be the squeaky wheel which is necessary to move things forward.

2) Northern Pass:

Tammy reported that she resolved the question of whether the Campton Historical Society(CHS) was participating in the DOE Section 106 Consulting Party process. Tammy called Paul Yelle who referred her to Nancy Mardin. Nancy left a message saying that George Wright attended one of the Section 106 meetings on behalf of the Historical Society. Additionally, the CHS submitted a letter which was signed by the Select Board.

Tammy also reported that there is a Northern Pass opposition rally on Sunday July 13 from 3-7 pm at Bretton Woods. The rally is in response to the recent news that the New England States Governors have been meeting behind closed doors to formulate and fast track a plan to subsidize one natural gas pipeline and one Canadian Hydro transmission project to meet regional energy demands. If the projects are paid for through a New England ratepayer tariff, they could then be eligible to petition the NH Public Utilities Commission for eminent domain.

The Conservation Law Foundation publicized a series of e-mails received through a Freedom of Information Act request. The e-mails reveal that NESCOE (New England States Committee on Electricity) have been consulting with energy industry representatives, and more documents are expected to be released. Tammy said that the reason the rally is at Bretton Woods is because the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers will hold their annual meeting at the Mt. Washington Hotel on July 14th.

Finally, Jess shared a letter she received from SPNHF requesting petition signatures to urge Gov. Hassan to bury or stop the Northern Pass Transmission line. The letter included a map of the current and proposed HVDC lines. Jess said she is yet to hear an answer as to why the existing route cannot be used rather than creating a new route through the White Mountain National Forest. Tammy said that the DOE is required to consider and study all alternative routes as part of the Presidential Permit process.

3) BWNA/PCP Management:

BWNA:

Jess expressed thanks to Eric and Melody Wooster for repairing the broken handrail on one of the BWNA bridges. Jess said that the first Nature Nights at Blair Woodland was poorly attended but she assumes partly because it fell on the eve of the Fourth of July holiday. Jess also learned that the Nature Nights schedule conflicts with the Campton Library summer programming but feels there are enough young families around to fill both. Tammy mentioned that the Rey Center was supposed to promote the program through their media outlets. A discussion of how to better promote the program was had, and all agreed that it would have been ideal if it were announced in the Parks and Rec flier but the printing deadline was missed. Jess said that she sent out an e-mail to around 20 families and hopes some will attend in the coming weeks. Rebecca pointed out that kids are so busy with all of the summer camps going on. Alisoun suggested that a notice be sent to daycare providers. Jess added the Plymouth and Campton Chambers of Commerce to the list and said she would send an e-mail to Sherry Holmes of the Rey Center with the group's ideas of how to attract more participants.

PCP:

Tammy reported that she mowed the Pattee Field walking path and walked the trails which looked good but could use a little lopper work. Jess will mow again in the next week or two. Jess said that Mae Brousseau called her asking if the Pattee Property deed was registered after the boundary line adjustment because there was an inquiry from a bank. Jess could not find record of this but did find a letter from the Planning Board saying that the adjustment had been approved. Mae reassured Jess

that this was commonplace and that no action is needed at this time.

4) Conservation Matters Column:

Jess reported that the column is moving along, and that she was able to find an article to fill in for PRLAC who was up next but missed the deadline. Pemi Baker Land Trust will submit an article for August, followed by Rumney CC and then PRLAC in October. Alisoun mentioned that the last column was posted directly across from the editorial page which she thought provided excellent exposure.

5) Pemi Landowner Outreach:

Tammy reported that she is still serving as the liaison between Grafton County Conservation District's Beth Ann Finlay and two landowners but the process has been slow moving and she has nothing new to report.

6) Halloween History Walk:

Jess reported that after having discussions with people involved with the Halloween History Walk, she feels it is best that the event remains a Historical Society Event as originally intended. All agreed and said they will attend the event with their families.

7) Outreach: e-mail/website:

Jess asked if we should schedule a work session for website work and all agreed that we should wait until our NRI revision work is complete. It was decided that an e-mail should be sent out to our Friends group letting them know about Nature Nights. Rebecca will take care of this.

8) FYI/Other New Business:

Jess pulled up an e-mail on her laptop sent from the NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions, which contained an information request. Ernest Dankwah, a GIS intern with The Nature Conservancy working off a state wildlife grant, is requesting that all NH towns review and update the GIS data layer relative to town conservation lands. The group wondered if this would be best fulfilled by Ron or Mae since they are the GIS experts. Jess will follow up. The NHACC newsletter also announced a new hire, Emily Lord who will serve as Program Manager.

Mail received was a Thank You note from the Rey Center for the \$400 contribution toward Nature Nights.

9) NRI Revision Work Planning:

Since our last business meeting a work session was held at Rebecca's, where we resumed our Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) revision work. A discussion was had about what the next steps should be. Jess and Rebecca will finish their assigned habitats from the Wildlife Action Plan brochures. Tammy and Alisoun agreed with Jane's e-mail describing that the process wasn't as straightforward as assumed. Rebecca said that the Google Docs site is set up, and that we should all be able to post our work there. Alisoun said that she found herself summarizing some of the verbage in her assigned habitats and felt she did not have the expertise to do so. She continued by saying she thinks we should have our work reviewed by experts. Jess said that it would be easy enough to have some some natural resource professionals as well as the folks from Cooperative Extension review our work when done. Tammy reminded the group that we are not writing anything, rather we are simply compiling work that experts have already written and incorporating the information relevant to Campton into our NRI. This was the method suggested by the Extension and there are examples from many towns provided and recommended for use as a template. This is perfectly reasonable as long as everything we use is cited. Since we do not meet in August, it was decided that we shoot for an end of July work session date. Rebecca offered to host and proposed Monday, July 28th at 5 pm as a date. Rebecca will see if this works for Jane. The goal is to have everything uploaded to Google Docs by the work session date.

Meeting adjourned 8:10pm

**Next meeting September 10th, 7pm
(Rebecca will chair)**

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster