

**Campton Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 10, 2014; 7pm**

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

**Others Present:** Shannon Garnsey

Rebecca Served as Chair and called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

**1. Minutes:**

Jane moved to accept the July meeting minutes. Alisoun seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**2. Ongoing Projects:**

a. Livermore Falls:

Jane reported that she attended the Friends of the Pemi Executive Committee meeting on 8/21. At the meeting, the committee was asked by Director of NH of Parks and Recreation Phil Bryce to submit a list of questions, thoughts and concerns they would like addressed in a Cultural Landscape Report relative to the west side of Livermore Falls. An RFP has been released with the intent of hiring a consultant to study the pros and cons of developing the site and to narrow the focus of the project. Jane said that she will share the list of questions she has compiled and sent to the Friends Group. Additionally there will be a site visit on the west side with the Friends group, Ben Wilson and Patrick Hummell from the state on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. Jane and Alisoun will attend.

Jane recapped the progress made over the summer emphasizing that improvements to date have mostly been on the Holderness side with positive feedback. Alisoun asked about the status of the settlement funds potentially available for parking and other enhancements on the west side, to which Jane replied to her knowledge the money has not been released, and has no news of the settlement status.

Discussion was had about the ongoing erosion and safety issues and Jane said that she would like to see the west side handled similar to the way the Campton Group Campground was after Tropical Storm Irene. The area was closed to the public and a sign was posted explaining the improvement project. This scenario would both keep the public safe and informed. Alisoun asked if we as a commission have a recommendation for what we'd like to see happen on the west side. Rebecca suggested that we come up with some some general objectives, rather than go into detail. Jess said that the west side

beach area will continue to erode during high flows which will limit recreation on that side. She proposed that the hoped for outcome for the site be a safe, scenic, and historic area with a de-emphasis on recreation. All agreed and Jane said that she would take this message to the Oct 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

*b. Northern Pass:*

Tammy summarized some recent Northern Pass developments she learned from the Bury the Northern Pass group e-mails. The Champlain Hudson Express power project is in its final stages of the Presidential Permit process, and the DOE has issued the final EIS (Environmental Impact Statement). This is noteworthy because 141 miles of the project will be buried along roads or railway lines, and underwater, and Northern Pass has maintained that such projects are only conceptual and pie in the sky.

Tammy also reported that Mass. Governor Deval Patrick's Clean Energy bill failed due to its complexity and opposition. Failure of the bill was a defeat for the state's two biggest electric utilities, as they both have transmission projects that could have been financed in part through a mandatory, rate-payer funded purchase of Canadian Hydropower. Lastly, Tammy reported that U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte recently toured five proposed Northern Pass crossings of I-93, one of which is in Campton. The Senator observed a photo simulation of proposed towers at the Exit 28 Campton Visitors Center. After her tour she publicly took the strongest position against Northern Pass to date. Jess asked what was going on with local Select Board's involvement. Tammy said that there has been nothing new since the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) informational meeting which was attended by local Select Board members including Campton. This is because the SEC permit process hasn't begun yet and won't until Northern Pass officially files an application.

*c. BWNA-*

Jane reported that in early August she was contacted by a man from Restorative Justice who is in charge of a young person ordered to complete 15 hours of community service work for the CCC. She did not obtain details, but surmised there was some damage to a property near BWNA and the property owner came up with the idea. Jane responded to the man from Restorative Justice with a list of potential BWNA work that could be done and never heard back from him. She added that if this happens in the future she will request that we be notified of any work completed.

Jess summarized the ongoing communication she has had with a local Boy Scout and leader, who were looking to build a bench at the BWNA as part of an Eagle Scout project. Jess told them that there were already 3 benches at BWNA and alternatively suggested some bridge repairs and a trail guide update project. Jess met with the scout and leader on July 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed the details including an informal offer for the CCC to

contribute up to half of the cost of the materials, up to \$75. Since then, she e-mailed an electronic version of the guide to the scout who was hoping to finish his project by summer's end. Alisoun asked if Jess was the only contact to which Jess said yes, that she was the only one available to meet with the scouts and has provided updates to the group via e-mail. Alisoun suggested that the scout put a plaque with his name on the bridge. All agreed and expressed support for the project. Jess added that she told the scout leader about additional project opportunities at the Pattee Conservation Park and he was enthusiastic about the idea.

Jess gave a quick summary of the Nature Nights program at BWNA and reported that she attended most of them with her family. On several nights 12-15 people showed up for the program, some of which were out of staters. On one occasion the Boy Scouts used it for their evening program. Jess said that Sherry Holmes did a really nice job, especially given that she was brand new to the Rey Center and had to come up to speed quickly. Sherry asked Jess for feedback and Jess told her to be sure to get the program announced early in next year's summer Parks and Recreation flier before the kids go on summer vacation. Jane suggested we ask Sherry for a report of the program including the number of attendees. Jess will follow up on this.

d. PCP:

Jess reported that she mowed the PCP walking path a few weeks ago. Jane said that she noticed one of the Liberty Elm Tree branches needs pruning and wondered who was in charge of maintaining the tree. She will ask Carol Lenahan of the Campton Garden Club.

e. Conservation Matters Column:

Jess declared that the Conservation Matters column is officially one year old and has been well received. She explained the project to Shannon and listed the six rotating contributing groups. Jess will compile all of the articles to date for the purpose of creating a binder. Jane suggested that when she sends the articles around to the various groups, to also ask for ideas of other potential contributors. Jess will be presenting the success story of the column at the upcoming NHACC conference in Laconia in November. Jane led the group in expressing a big thank you to Jess for her work on this project.

**3). CVP Grant Update:**

The CCC received a request to write a letter of support for a grant applied for by the North Country Council (NCC) and the Campton Village Precinct (CVP). The request came at the last minute before the application deadline and Jane quickly put something together for the CCC. Jane recollected that there were few details given other than the grant was relative to a study evaluating how changes in flow of the Mad River could impact wells. The CCC would welcome more information relative to the grant and hopes

to be included in any communication.

**4) NRI Revision:**

Jane shared that she checked in with May to see how the Master Plan Revision was going and learned that progress was slow over the summer. Jane told May that as the CCC works through the NRI Revisions, we are finding material in the old NRI that may be relevant or useful to the Planning Board. Jane explained that we are leaving some of this information out of the revised NRI and offered to share it with the Planning Board in the form of a packet. CCC members continue to work on their assigned NRI sections and a work session was set for 9/24 at 4pm at Rebecca's house. All will come with paper copies of their work to edit as a group.

**5) Mail:**

Mail received included Forestry Notifications, a Grafton County Conservation District survey, and a DES newsletter. Also received was a wetland permit relative to earth berm and wing-wall concrete repairs at the Campton Pond dam.

Before adjourning, Jane suggested that we take a look at the operating budget at next month's meeting as we approach the end of the year. Jess will bring a copy of the budget.

Meeting adjourned 8:38 pm  
Next Meeting Oct 8th, 7pm  
Alisoun will chair

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster