

**Campton Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 8, 2014;7pm**

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

**Others Present:** Shannon Garnsey

Alisoun served as chair and opened the meeting at 7:08pm. Jess moved to approve the September meeting minutes. Rebecca seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**1) Livermore Falls Update:**

Jane attended the October 1<sup>st</sup> Friends of the Pemi/Livermore Falls meeting and site visit. Rebecca pulled up an e-mail summary of the meeting from Jane and read it aloud. Meeting attendees included Ben Wilson and Patrick Hummel from DRED, CPD Chief Warn, and State Rep. Jim Aguiar. Friends of the Pemi members aside from Alisoun and Jane who attended were Steve Rand, Walter Johnson and Ken Evans. There has been confusion due to incorrect GPS locations bringing families to the Campton side when they are really looking for the Holderness side. Yet to be awarded wind project mitigation money will go through the state treasurer and DRED will have to access it. It looks like most of the money will now be used for additional parking on the Holderness side. There is optimism that land may be purchased from a private owner to the south. DOT parking setback issues still need to be ironed out. A cultural study is currently being conducted on both sides of the river with results anticipated in Dec.

The DES Dam Bureau has weighed in that they want to leave the site as is and maintain it as a ruin. Rail and Transit could be asked for a railroad crossing but current plans are to use old abutments from the old roadway leading to the bridge as supports for a pedestrian crossing. Along Rte 3, a combination of permanent guard rail and temporary jersey barriers before winter were discussed. Visions for what the group imagined for the site were discussed in small groups and it was agreed that the granite block dam is still in good shape but the brick mill seems questionable. Some wondered about letting nature take its course and what that would mean for the quaility of water downstream. There was some question about what hydrology experts would predict short and long term, whether the river would revert back to its original path and if so would this be advisable? No decisions were made, and dreams for the site as well as signage ideas were encouraged.

**2) PCP/Tree progress:**

Jess reported that Jane was in touch with Carol Lenehan from the Garden Club to plan for the winterizing of the Liberty Elm Tree at the Pattee field. Carol knows of a person for hire to prune and wrap the tree at a cost of \$75. Jess made a motion for the

CCC to share in half of the cost of the tree work to be expended from our operating budget. Alisoun seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**3) NRI Revision Update:**

The CCC held a work session on September 24<sup>th</sup> where we made progress on updating Campton's Natural Resource Inventory. All agreed that the task at hand was a major one, especially given that many towns hire professional consultants to do this work. Alisoun proposed that we set a rough deadline for completion of the project and it was decided that spring would be a realistic goal. A date for the next work session was set for October 27<sup>th</sup>, 4pm at Rebecca's house. Before then all will e-mail their assigned homework to Rebecca who will compile everything into one document. We will then edit the work to date as a group.

**4) NHACC Conference:**

The NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions annual conference is on November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Laconia Middle School. Jess made copies of the brochure for the group took a look at the workshops offered. This year's theme is Inspiring Young Conservationists. Jess said that there is enough money in the budget for all CCC members to attend and that she is going for free since she will be presenting this year. Alisoun and Rebecca said that they were in, and Tammy had to check her calendar. Rebecca said she would take care of registering for the group and to let her know definitively by October 22<sup>nd</sup>. While looking over the brochure we learned that Conservation Commissions may sponsor a student for free. Rebecca said that she had a couple of students in mind who may be interested and all agreed it was a great idea.

**5) 2014 Budget Review:**

The group reviewed the 2014 operating budget and expenditures to date. Jess noted that the PRLAC dues had not been paid, and we just received the dues notice. Tammy asked if the NH Assoc. for Natural Resource Scientists Dues were lumped in with the NHACC dues and a note was made to verify the breakdown of this line item. In general consensus was that the 2014 budget worked well. Alisoun asked when we had to have the 2015 budget prepared. Jess said the Select Board usually schedules a meeting in late December or early January, at which time we present the proposed budget.

**6) FYI:**

Jess reported that the prospective Campton Eagle Scout has all of the materials for the BWNA bridge repair project and has to complete his badge before he is 19 which

is soon.

Mail opened included the NHACC conference announcement, and a DES Wetlands Permit relative to dredge and fill of Campton Pond for the purpose of dam repairs. Also received was the Grafton County Conservation District fall workshop program. Upcoming workshops include Conservation Easements and Timber Stand Improvement and Improving Soil Productivity through Soil Health.

Jess asked Shannon Garnsey if she is ready to become a CCC member and Shannon said yes. The group asked Shannon to summarize her relevant background. Shannon said that she has a Biology degree, was a member of her college environmental organizations, and has experience working in wildlife rehabilitation. She is a 4 year resident of Campton and is an avid outdoorswoman. All were thrilled that Shannon will be joining the CCC. Alisoun will prepare a letter of recommendation for appointment to be sent to the Select Board.

Jess reported that she recently ran into former CCC member Lea Stewart who offered to lead the annual frozen bog walk again in January. Jess suggested we set a date for this event at our next meeting, and will ask Lea to write the December Conservation Matters column with the topic being wildlife tracking. The column could end with the announcement of the bog walk. All loved this idea.

With no other business to discuss Jess made a motion to adjourn at 8:27. Rebecca seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday November 12; 7pm**