

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2014; 7pm

Members Present: Shannon Garnsey, Jess Halm, Alisoun Hodges, Jane Kellogg, Rebecca Steeves, Tammy Wooster

Jane served as chair and called the meeting to order at 7:08pm. Alisoun moved to approve the October meeting minutes. Shannon seconded the motion and all were in favor.

1) Updates/Reports:

a. New CCC member :

The group congratulated and welcomed new CCC member Shannon Garnsey. Shannon reported that she was just sworn in today, and thanked Alisoun for writing the appointment recommendation to the Select Board. Alisoun accompanied Shannon in meeting the Board at their most recent meeting. Shannon said that she was asked about her interests, what she had to offer and whether she was able to handle the responsibilities given her busy schedule.

b. PCP Liberty Tree:

Jane reported that Carol Lenehan had sent her several e-mails relative to some time sensitive maintenance to the Liberty Elm Tree at the Pattee Conservation Park. An arborist had looked at the Liberty Tree and found some problems. In his opinion the tree had been planted too deeply and needs to be raised, and then back-filled to protect the trunk. There is also some mulching, and careful pruning work needed now to prevent the tree from splitting in future decades. Jane said that she was away when Carol sent the e-mails and was unsure where things stand now, but had sent a personal check for \$37.50 to cover half of the consulting fee. Carol had requested that the CCC split the cost of the maintenance work with the Garden Club. Jess said that there was still some money left in the CCC budget that we could use for this purpose. Alisoun moved that in the spirit of collaboration with the Garden Club that the CCC contribute 50% of the shared cost of the liberty tree maintenance not to exceed \$300. Jess seconded the motion and all were in favor. Jane will follow up with Carol and ask for an invoice detailing the needed work.

c. Eagle Scout Project:

Jess reported that she had just met with Roy Hines and signed the paperwork for him to submit for his Eagle Scout project. The BWNA bridge improvement work is complete and the bridge has been revamped with pressure treated lumber complete with a handrail. The old materials have also been removed. Roy did not get to the guide book

updates but told Jess he still would like to. Jane asked if there were any pictures taken or articles written about the project and Jess said that she offered Roy CCC assistance with a press release. There will be an Eagle Scout ceremony in early January and all are invited. Jess said that the scouts now have the CCC on their radar for other up and coming potential Eagle Scout projects. Alisoun suggested we send Roy a Thank You Note and got one from the cabinet for all to sign.

d. NHACC Conference:

The group expressed regret that most were unable to attend the November 1st NH Association of Conservation Commissions conference due to other obligations. Jess, however, did attend and was also a co-presenter of a session titled “How to tell your Conservation Story”, where she shared how the Conservation Matters column came to be. The session was well received and it was recommended that future articles also contain a photo to attract readers.

Jess said that she enjoyed the conference which this year had the theme “Inspiring Young Conservationists”. Jess described two other sessions she attended, one of which was relative to the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). Jess learned that there is a \$25.00 fee for all signed mortgages that goes to the LCHIP fund. This money has been redirected for the past several years and there is a Senate bill being proposed to restore LCHIP funding and NH CC's are encouraged to support the bill. Jess also learned that for every dollar spent on conservation, \$11 are earned. The other session Jess attended was about different types of funding for conservation projects including The Aquatic Resources Mitigation (ARM) fund. She explained that the ARM funding comes from wetland impact mitigation fees. Jane furthered by saying funds are released by region and notice is given in advance of the release of funds so that project ideas can be prepared.

e. Conservation Matters Column:

Jess reported that she connected with Alexandria CC folks at the NHACC conference and got them signed on as a contributor to the Conservation Matters column. We have now gained a new group, but also lost one, since PRLAC requested to be removed from the rotation but requested to be included in the e-mails. The CCC is the contributing group for the December column, and former CCC member Lea Stewart has graciously agreed to write a winter tracking column.

f. Livermore Falls/Friends of the Pemi:

Jane and Alisoun attended the October 31st Livermore Falls meeting, and reported that the room was full of folks from the Rotary, State, and PSU. Three Campton neighbors from Blueberry Lane also attended, having concerns around parking, impacts to trees,

and people gaining access to the river by way of private property to jump from the rocks. No Trespassing signs have been posted and verbal warnings given, but in general are ignored and often rudely responded to. These Campton residents have been frustrated with the lack of assistance from the Campton PD. Also discussed at the meeting was another recap of summer improvements and disappointment was expressed at the state's slow progress.

Jane said that the newly formed Historic and Environment Committees have broken out and have recently met. Alisoun, who is on the Historic Committee, said that Tink Taylor circulated some historic documents in advance of an upcoming meeting. Jane is on the Environment committee and reported that a bioblitz is being planned in early May for all of the greenspace within the area beginning above the falls down to the south beach area in Plymouth. A Bioblitz is a point in time inventory of all of the flora and fauna conducted by a large group of people. Jane questioned whether an early May scheduling would miss some of the bird migrants, but explained the reasoning was to include PSU students before their semester ends. Jane had the idea of a winter tracking event in the same area to add to the inventory, and said that Max Stamp is going to take the idea to his tracking group.

Jane reported that the state was quite open to our sign ideas and is currently working up the verbage. The signs are to be posted on the Campton side of the falls to discourage and inform visitors until safety improvements are made. Alisoun said that she was bothered by the state's project outline and timeline which continues to emphasize the Holderness side of the falls. Jane said that the issues on the Holderness side were easier to address and less complex than those on the Campton side. She added that the Cultural Study report commissioned by the state is due out soon, and will serve to improve the focus on the Campton side. The next Livermore Falls meeting is scheduled for 11/21, and the director of DRED will attend.

g. NRI Revision work:

Rebecca reported that we now have all of the major sections of the NRI compiled into one document. Jess said that after comparing our version to other town NRI's, there are no huge pieces missing. The next big work item is to incorporate maps into the document. Jess read aloud a list of maps most of which already exist but need to be pulled from different sources. Jess proposed the idea of hiring Ron Reynolds to do this work who has the expertise we need to enhance existing maps, or possibly create some new maps. Rebecca said we could pay Ron an hourly rate or look into what other town's have paid for similar services. Jane said she would ask Ron if he would be willing, and suggested scheduling the next work session at her house. A date of Tuesday, 11/18 at 5:15 pm was set to have a conceptual conversation with a copy of the NRI to date in hand.

2) SLCS Trail Grant:

Jane was contacted by a Squam Lakes Conservation Society board member and asked to write a letter in support of a 2015 Recreational Trails Program grant. If the grant is secured, a new trail will be built that will be the beginning of a whole new system of trails in the large tract of land that has been put into conservation along the Beebe River. The SLCS is looking for a commitment of volunteer hours for trail building. Jane passed around a copy of her letter of support and asked if the CCC would be interested in submitting one as well. Alisoun asked if the proposed trails were going to be for non-motorized use only, to which Jane replied the information she received did not specify but she assumed it was. Rebecca looked up the grant specifics online and read aloud that there are three separate trail project categories with 30% funding for motorized, 30% for non-motorized, and 40% for diversified trail uses. Jane will verify which category SLCS is pursuing, and Shannon offered to write the letter of support on behalf of the CCC.

3) 2015 Budget Review:

Jess read aloud the 2014 budget expenditures which revealed there is about \$200 left out of \$1065 to date if we include Jane's reimbursement for the Liberty tree consulting fee she paid. Shannon asked if we would pay Ron Reynolds proposed consulting work fees from this year's budget and all agreed that NRI budgeting should be part of next week's work session. Potential NRI expenses were brainstormed such as digitizing and printing, and all agreed that we should look into what other towns have spent on their NRIs. Jess will ask this question of NHACC president Nik Coates. The group agreed that if we needed to budget more next year to cover NRI expenses, this would be justified given that it is used as a Planning Board Tool and many towns hire consultants to create an NRI, whereas we are doing the work ourselves.

4) Winter Tracking Event:

Lea Stewart has committed to leading the Frozen Bog walk again this year at Bog Pond, and 2/1/15 is the set date from 2-4 pm. Lea will announce the event as part of her Conservation Matters column submission in December. Rebecca recalled that we missed the North Country News deadline and will find out when we need to get an announcement in. Shannon suggested getting the article into the next Parks and Recreation flier, and Tammy said she would write a letter to the Friends of the CCC.

5) Other:

Jess shared that she recently received a check from Leah Gray made out to her in appreciation for some yard work that she did for Leah. Leah told Jess to spend it how she wishes, and Jess said she did not want the money but would cash the check and put it to use as petty cash perhaps to cover expenses for Frozen Bog Walk refreshments. Jess said that Leah's friend Carolyn donated some of her land in Barrington, and was pushing for the land to be used as an educational property and cited BWNA as an example. A trail has

been started and Leah will be sending a brochure along to share with the CCC.

Jess reported that Janice Mulherin approached her with the idea of having a meet and greet event with area CC's and newly elected officials, perhaps at the Plymouth Library. Larry Spencer and Tink Taylor also liked the idea and Janice will be proposing the idea to the Rumney CC.

Tammy said that she is unable to attend the December meeting and Jane offered to write up the minutes.

Mail opened included the SLA Watershed Report, a Wetlands Permit notification for Webster Land Corp. and a NHACC 2015 dues notice.

Meeting adjourned: 8:55pm
Next Meeting December 10, 2014;7 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster