

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2015;7pm

Members Present:

Shannon Garnsey, Alisoun Hodges, Jane Kellogg, Rebecca Steeves, Tammy Wooster

Rebecca served as chair and called the meeting to order at 7:07pm. Alisoun moved to accept the December meeting minutes. Shannon seconded the motion and all were in favor.

1) Ongoing Project:

a. Livermore Falls Update:

Jane reported that Ken Evans and Walter Johnson recently met with some Blueberry Lane property owners to discuss a proposed parking area on the Holderness side of Livermore Falls. The meeting went well, improvements were agreed upon, and the plans are being reworked. Alisoun shared a map of the area detailing an approximately ninety space parking lot and some toilets. There was opposition expressed at the meeting regarding the number of trees to be removed and there was discussion of whether the existing 50' buffer was enough. State Parks will not know how much money will be available for the project until this budget season. The next step will be to hold a community meeting to give area residents a chance to look at the plans.

Jane said that a state floodplain report identifies one area located right below the falls as a floodplain containing a rare plant. The report was brought to the attention of the Environment Committee because the committee is charged with documenting the plants and animals in the falls area. Lea Stewart will be visiting the Livermore Falls State Park this week to look for wildlife tracks as part of this flora and fauna survey. Jane and Jess may accompany her. Alisoun, who is on the Historic Committee, said that the group met and learned that PRHS Science teacher Ina Ahern is interested in involving her students in the project.

b. Northern Pass Update:

Tammy said that the regular e-mail updates she receives relative to the Northern Pass project are becoming more lengthy and complicated, largely reporting on regional large scale energy issues and politics. Plans are moving forward for The Champlain Hudson Express and New England Clean Power Link projects, and are receiving little opposition since cable burial plans exist for both. There is also a new project being proposed in Maine. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is still expected to be released by the DOE in the spring, likely to be followed by a State Site Evaluation Committee filing by Northern Pass.

c. BWNA/PCP:

The arborist who recommended the PCP Liberty Tree fertilizing and pruning work has been paid, the cost for which was split between the CCC and Garden Club. It is assumed the work has been completed, and Jane will follow up with Carol Lenehan.

d. Conservation Matters:

The latest Conservation Matters column has been submitted by the Plymouth CC, and the Squam Lakes Association (SLA) has now signed onto the project bringing the number of contributing groups to seven. Shannon wondered where the SLA will fit into the rotation, and will suggest to Jess that they could use the column as an opportunity to announce their upcoming Winterfest.

e. NRI:

A work session was held on December 8th, and Ron Reynolds shared some of the mapping work he has done for our Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). Jane reported that since the work session, Ron has taken a look at the Wellhead Protection Area map produced for us by Nick Sceggell as part of our past groundwater protection effort. Ron is questioning the GIS locations on the map and is suggesting that the CCC ground-truth the points to be sure. All agreed it would be valuable to visit all of the sites together. Dates were proposed for another work session next week and Rebecca will e-mail Jess to see what works for her.

2) Town Report:

Jane has written a draft of the 2014 CCC Annual Report and asked for comments. All approved of the report, and Jane will recirculate it by e-mail after some edits. Tammy will help write the Northern Pass section, and Alisoun will review for grammar.

3) 210 acres for sale/Possible Town Forest?

Jane shared a letter forwarded to her by Patrick Miller. The letter was from Roche Realty advertising a 210 acre parcel for sale on Chandler Hill with conservation potential. Jane presumes the letter was sent to Patrick since he is a landowner nearby the property for sale and is known to be interested in conservation. Discussion of what was known about the property was had. Shannon said she is familiar with the site which has been logged, contains a lot of ledge, and there are access issues. She added that the area is already being used for recreation. Jane said that Patrick forwarded the letter to her because there had been past discussions of creating a town forest. Rebecca asked how the process of creating a town forest worked in terms of funding. Jane listed potential scenarios for funding resources

including the Conservation Fund, a town expenditure approved through a warrant article, or a separate fund-raising campaign. Jane asked if anyone was interested in looking at the land. Consensus was that the land is overpriced, but it would be worth a visit if for no other reason than to become more familiar with this beautiful part of town. Jane will contact the realtor and arrange for a site visit.

4) 1/27 Local CC Meeting :

Larry Spencer, chair of the Holderness CC is organizing a meeting for local Conservation Commissions to be held at 7pm on January 27th at PSU in Boyd Hall Room 004. Historically this meeting has been held every 2-3 years and is an opportunity for CC's to connect and share their work. Each CC is asked to present a 5-10 minute report of their projects. Jane and Alisoun plan on attending and Jane asked what projects we should include in the Campton summary. All agreed that the projects Jane summarized in the annual report are all worthy of sharing. Tammy said the meeting would be a good time to plan for the newly elected legislator/CC meeting proposed by the Rumney CC/Quincy Bog folks.

5) Bog Walk Prep:

Sunday, February 1st is the date for our third annual Frozen Bog Walk from 2-4pm. Lea Stewart will guide the walk in search of animal tracks and we will share refreshments after the walk. Announcements have been placed in The Record Enterprise and the North Country News. Jane passed around a flier for review and everyone took a few to post around town. Tammy wrote an announcement for the Friends of the CCC newsletter and will forward it to Beverly. All are hopeful for a great turnout and the only unfinished business is to work out refreshment details. We will wait to hear from Jess, since she has some Leah Gray donated money set aside for this purpose.

6) Incoming Mail:

CCC mail was opened and included a Forestry Notification, an incomplete new Septic application, and a Trustees Times newsletter.

7) Other Business:

Jane shared that while reviewing the 2014 CCC minutes for writing the annual report, she was reminded of the Beebe River Tract now in conservation. She contacted Roger LaRochelle from the SLA and asked if there was anything new to report. Roger suggested that she contact Nancy Bell from the Conservation Fund and Nancy just sent Jane an e-mail full of great information. Jane will forward the e-mail which includes a map of the tract, a descriptive brochure, and a detailed report of the community forum held to inform towns within the tract. Jane thought that these materials would be perfect to share at Town meeting

and voting days and all agreed. Nancy Bell also offered to meet with Jane next week since she will be in the area. Jane plans on meeting Nancy for coffee and invited all to join her.

Jane shared an idea she had to help us stay organized as a commission. Given that each season has a different cycle of CC activity, Jane thought a notebook would be helpful to guide agenda creation and serve as a reminder of seasonal business to attend to. It would also be helpful for new members to see the range of different projects we are involved in. Examples of things to include in the notebook were discussed including minutes of prior meetings, annual conference dates, and land management tasks. The keeper of the notebook would be the rotating chair and passed along at each monthly meeting. All loved this idea and Jane will take the lead in starting the notebook. Alisoun added that ideally this could all be accomplished on an electronic platform in the future.

The last business discussed was February and March Meeting dates. Due to past conflicts with annual town meeting and budget hearing dates we are tentatively scheduling February 4th and March 4th for our next two meetings.

Meeting adjourned 8:32pm

Next meeting Feb 4th, 7pm

Respectfully submitted,