

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2015;7pm

Members Present:

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

Alisoun served as chair and opened the meeting at 7:08 pm. Jane made a motion to accept the January meeting minutes. Jess seconded the motion and all were in favor.

1) **Bog Walk Report:**

Our 3rd annual Frozen Bog Walk was held on February 1st and despite the frigid temperatures there was a great turnout. 22 people showed up, and Lea Stewart enthusiastically led the group around the bog looking for wildlife tracks. Tracks of fox, mouse, shrew, snowshoe hare, ermine, and coyote were observed, along with two scent mark areas. The highlight discovery was an intact dead shrew which was found poking out of the snow by Peggy Martin. All agreed that the turnout was the best to date, and more sent an RSVP by e-mail this year. There were two who replied that did not show up and Jane pointed out that many confuse the bog with Campton Pond when the bog is referred to as Campton Bog Pond. In the future we will specifically mention Beech Hill Road when advertising the meeting place. All agreed this should continue to be an annual event.

2) **Annual Report:**

Jane passed around copies of the CCC annual report she had drafted, and the group agreed on the final edits. Jane will forward the report to Ann Marie.

3) **Beebe River Tract Report:**

Jane and Shannon met informally with Nancy Bell from the Conservation Fund on 1/21 to discuss the Beebe River Tract project progress. They learned that the Conservation Fund is readying for site planning, and working with foresters and abutting landowners behind the scenes. John Martin will be developing a Forest Management Plan. Nancy said that the goal this season is to hold a series of field trips with various groups and encourage them to ask questions throughout the planning process. Jane offered our newsletter as a way to reach out to people. Shannon said that Nancy stressed a high level of collaboration between the towns of Campton, Sandwich and Holderness and encouraged a future joint CC meeting. Jane added that Nancy was hoping to meet with the Campton Select Board to outline the plans before town meeting but this is not possible given the busy schedule at hand. Nancy was able to get the map, brochures, and

written description of the project to the Board so that they can review the materials. Nancy also gave us permission to display these same materials at Town meeting, including a poster sized version of the brochure. Jane said that Nancy paid for the materials to be printed at True Colors and offered to support us in future printings of field trip announcements. Shannon added that there is a great deal of work to be done on the land relative to culverts, erosion, and stream crossings to make the property accessible to the public.

4) **Ongoing Projects:**

a. Chandler Hill Property for Sale:

Jane brought Jess up to date on the Chandler Hill property for sale that was brought to our attention as a potential Town Forest. Jane said she hadn't had a chance to follow up and asked the group if it was worthwhile pursuing. It was agreed that it was not worthy of consideration since there is no threat of development, there are major public access issues, and the land is overpriced.

b. Livermore Falls:

The Livermore Falls Annual Report is out and has been forwarded to Ann Marie for inclusion in the Campton Town Report. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12th. Alisoun said it is likely that the parking situation on the Holderness side will be discussed and she hopes that there will also be more information on plans for the Campton side. Jane said the Cultural Landscape report was expected out around Christmas and maybe this info will be available soon.

c. Local Conservation Groups Roundtable:

Holderness Conservation Commission Chair Larry Spencer organized a roundtable meeting on Feb 3rd at PSU for local conservation groups to share and highlight their work. Jane and Alisoun represented the CCC, and said that other attending Conservation Commissions included Plymouth, Holderness, Rumney and Hebron. Other groups included Quincy Bog, USFS, SPNHF, SLA, SLCS, PSU/CFE, and the Loon Preservation Society. NHACC Director Nik Coates also was there. Alisoun said it was fascinating to hear about other conservation related work and was particularly impressed with a talk on potential beneficiaries of conservation land given by Amy Villamagna from PSU. Nik Coates gave a legislative update and Jane said this is the time of year to keep our ears open for conservation related legislation which we may want to weigh in on. Jane added that Janice Mulherin brought up the idea of holding a meet and greet with local CC's and

newly elected officials, but the response was it would be unlikely given the busy legislative session. Alisoun closed by saying she learned that Rumney sponsors a child every summer to attend Conservation Camp in Barre, NH. Rebecca said that Loon Mountain does the same, providing two scholarships to Lin-wood 7th and 8th graders.

d. Conservation Matters:

Jess reported that she sent out an e-mail to Janice Mulherin from the Rumney CC reminding her that they are the next Conservation Matters contributing group. She added that she is hearing lots of positive feedback from folks around town and people seem to be learning and enjoying the column.

e. Northern Pass:

Tammy reported that there have been some land purchases in the towns of Bethlehem, Dalton, Whitefield, and North Woodstock adjacent to PSNH's ROW. The buyer is Chalcol NH Development LLC, and is thought to be affiliated with Northern Pass. She also reported that the Town of Deerfield has a warrant article that if approved, will allow the town to create a \$10,000 Northern Pass Defense Fund. The purpose of the fund is to finance legal expenses incurred by the town in advocating the town's position on the Northern Pass project.

Lastly, there are two bills being taken up this legislative session relative to changes in NH's renewable energy laws. HB 143 would add large scale hydroelectric projects outside of New England to the category of power supply eligible for support through the state's renewable energy initiative. The other, HB 234, would collapse four categories of energy supply, with varying degrees of subsidy, into a single classification of renewable. Both bills are opposed by environmentalists, and DES spoke out against the measures stating that the renewable-fuels portfolio law was developed over 3 years of negotiations with various stakeholders and struck a delicate balance of interests.

5) **NRI:**

Our next NRI work session will be at 4:30 on February 16th at Jane's House. Rebecca will send around the latest version and Shannon will work the document into outline form. From there we will take a close look at the document and see which sections need work.

6) **Budget Hearing:**

The Town Budget Hearing will be held on Feb 11th at 6:30 pm. Jane is the only one that could commit to going at this time.

7) **Mail:**

Mail opened included a permit application for a wetland embankment stabilization project around two Campton Village Precinct wellhead protection areas that have sustained erosion from flooding. Jane said that Max Stamp from PRLAC was notified of the project since the site is next to the river. Jane will let us know if a site visit is planned. Tammy wondered who would pay for the work, since DES has grant money available for such projects. Also opened was a Forestry Notification, and a letter from DRED announcing Scott Rolfe as the new Community Forester.

8) **Other Business:**

Jane said she received an e-mail announcing the 2015 Saving Special Places workshop on 4/11. She asked the group to be on the lookout for more info, and encouraged all to attend this informative annual event.

Jane also showed the group a notebook she created which will serve as a CC seasonal planning tool. Jane's idea was discussed at our last meeting and the new notebook will be handed to the rotating chair each month.

Meeting adjourned 8:46pm

**Next meeting: March 4th, 7pm
(one week earlier due to Town Meeting)**

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster