

**Campton Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 8, 2015; 7pm**

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

**Others Present:** Campton residents David Peeler and Leona Minicucci

Jess served as chair and before opening the meeting asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. David Peeler said that he came to the meeting as a one year Campton resident with an interest in conservation, and is ready to be involved in the community. He has been a NH coverts cooperator and is currently managing his land and developing trails with conservation in mind. Dave is a Quincy Bog Board member and is has also been involved with the Campton Historical Society. Leona Minicucci is a 2012 PSU Information Technology graduate who was invited to the meeting to discuss possible CCC website work, and also supports environmental conservation.

After introductions, Jess opened the meeting at 7:25 pm.

**1) March Minutes approval:**

Alisoun moved to accept the March meeting minutes. Rebecca seconded the motion and all were in favor. Tammy gave Jess a copy of the minutes for the CCC binder.

**2) CCC Website:**

Jess asked Leona to show the group an example of her recent work. Leona shared some improvements she made to the Hubbard Brook website. Jess said that Leona could possibly help make the CCC website more robust with fewer links, and more updated but less time sensitive content. Leona explained that her specialty is programming, but she could do all of these things if we provide the content in the form of pdf's. Rebecca asked how this would work if the CCC web page is part of the town website. Jess said that the Town website could have a link to our own separate website, similar to what the Fire Department does. Leona explained the concept of a separate CSS file and said we would need a name, server, and hosting space. She added that she would be willing to take on the work for \$50-\$100 in compensation. Tammy said Campton has one webmaster Beverly Chapel, who is very busy and might welcome the idea of someone else taking on this work. Tammy will follow up with Beverly and put her in touch with Leona.

**3) Ongoing projects:**

a. *Livermore Falls:*

Alisoun attended the most recent Livermore Falls meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and said several monthly events are being planned for the summer. May 9th is set as a cleanup day at the falls, and in June a water safety program will be offered. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, Tink Taylor will give a presentation on the history of the area. Volunteers are being solicited for busy weekends to help greet people and serve as safety guides. Volunteer training will take place in May. The parking area has been redesigned, and the surrounding landowners are happy with the plan, but construction is unlikely for this summer due to funding uncertainty. A representative from the Becket School was present, and wants to involve Becket School kids in the project, beginning with cleanup and sign making. The Friends of the Pemi group has a Facebook page, and there is also a new webpage: [livermorefalls.org](http://livermorefalls.org). Alisoun said there was nothing new to report on the Campton side, but Jane signed up for the weekend of August 14-16 to serve as a volunteer greeter/safety guide and would like another CCC member to join her. Finally, Alisoun passed around a copy of the long awaited Cultural Landscape and Environmental Assessment Report, a 60 page document created by a Rhode Island consulting firm. Alisoun said that the report is full of great information and photos, and will send around the link to the electronic version. Shannon explained that the document was developed to serve as research background for future planning. Dave asked if the Historical Society was involved and Tammy said that Historical Society was invited early on in the stakeholder meetings but has had little involvement since the Rotary took the lead.

b. *Conservation Matters:*

The March Conservation Matters Floodplain article hasn't been seen in the paper yet and Jess said she followed up with an inquiry to the Record Enterprise. The April submission is ready to go, and Shannon suggested we use the Floodplain article as a future backup if it doesn't show up this week.

c. *Northern Pass:*

There were a few folks who stood up at Town Meeting to voice their concerns about the proposed Northern Pass project, and one person encouraged the Select Board to join forces with surrounding towns in opposition. Tammy thanked Jess for speaking on behalf of the CCC to invite anyone to come to our meetings as we discuss this issue each month.

Tammy reported that Eversource and Northern Pass have made a 3 million dollar donation to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support conservation projects in NH. One project announced aims to restore New England cottontail rabbit habitat, and a second will support a study on how to help brook trout overcome barriers to up-stream passage. Critics of Northern Pass dismiss the effort as a PR stunt ahead of the soon expected submission of the project's application to the state.

#### **4. Old Business:**

*a. Town Meeting/Voting overview:*

A nice display was set up by Alisoun and Jane featuring the Beebe River Tract acquisition by the Conservation Fund. A poster sized map of the area was displayed and handouts summarizing the project were made available. Jane spent some time at the display to answer questions and talk to folks and we are looking forward to hearing what feedback she had.

*b. NRI/GIS mapping project:*

On March 18th, Jess, Jane, and Shannon made progress working on the NRI together through Google Docs. All agreed this was the way forward and a great way to work as a group. Jane gave Jess some maps to bring to the meeting that Ron Reynolds has been working on. Some of the maps include conservation areas, important soils, and aquifer/wellhead protection areas. The group will review the maps in greater detail and continue working on the NRI document on 4/21 at 4:30. The work session will be held at the Campton Elementary School library.

#### **5. New Business:**

*a. Spring Roadside Cleanup:*

A date was set for our Spring roadside cleanup. It was decided to plan the cleanup on the same day as the Livermore Falls cleanup so that we can join forces. We will meet at the PCP parking area on May 9th at 9 a.m. Jess will arrange for the supplies.

*b. Saving Special Places Workshop:*

Alisoun has signed up for the April 11th Saving Special Places workshop. Dave Peeler said that he is also going, and suggested that they carpool with Betty Jo Taffe.

*c. Land Management Planning:*

Our April meeting is always reserved as a time to discuss and prioritize management planning for the PCP and BWNA properties. First on the list is for all to keep an eye on the BWNA parking conditions so that we can open the area as soon as possible. As conditions needed. We will also look into using Leah Gray's donaton to have a plaque made in recognition of the Boy Scout bridge improvement work at BWNA. Tammy will confirm whether ths is a PCP field mowing year. Alisoun said that she has observed snowmobile tracks on the field and asked if ths was allowed. Jess answered the field has historically been used for snowmobiling and there is no

harm done as long as snow cover is adequate.

d. *Nature Nights @ BWNA:*

Jess learned from Sherry Holmes that the Rey Center intends to offer the Nature Nights program at BWNA again this summer with the help of the CCC. The Cost for the program is projected to be \$750. Last year the CCC contributed \$500 from the Conservation Fund, and CGSB donated the remaining \$250. Since Sherry was new to the Rey Center last year, she is unsure of the contact at the bank who arranged for the donation. Shannon offered to contact the bank and ask if they could serve as a donor again this summer. We will take an official vote on the expenditure when we learn if the remaining \$250 needed has been donated.

Jess will follow up and get the Nature Nights details set in time for inclusion in the Park and Recreation summer program flier. She will also make sure the chosen dates don't conflict with the Campton Library summer reading program.

**6. Incoming Mail:**

Mail received included a brochure advertising trail services, and a bill for NHACC annual dues. Shannon will bring the bill to Ann Marie. There was also a postcard with information on how to obtain electronic and hard copies of the forthcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Northern Pass Project. Tammy said that she had requested all versions of the document on behalf of the CCC long ago, but will mail in the post card request anyway.

**7. Other Business:**

Ann Marie informed Jess that she, Alisoun, and Shannon were up for reappointment. Tammy asked that when Jess respond, she get clarification as to whether all appointments are for 3 years. Shannon said she has only been on for 4 months and wondered whether her appointment served as a fill in for Jules' spot. Jess will follow up.

Alisoun asked that since we have to reschedule our Feb/Mar meeting dates to accomodate the Town Meeting/Voting schedule, would it make sense to hold all of our meetings the first Wednesday of each month for consistency sake? All agreed it was worthy of consideration if it doesn't conflict with other town board meetings, but if we make the change it should happen next calendar year.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:40 pm**  
**Next meeting: Wednesday, May 9th, 7 pm**  
**Rebecca will chair**

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster