

Campton Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2015; 7 pm

Members present: Shannon Garnsey, Alisoun Hodges, Jane Kellogg, Rebecca Steeves, Tammy Wooster

Others present: Dave Peeler

Rebecca served as chair and opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Alisoun moved to accept the April meeting minutes. Shannon seconded the motion and all were in favor.

1. **Ongoing projects:**

a. Roadside Cleanup:

On May 9th 10 trash bags were filled as we walked our Adopt a Highway stretch along Rte 175 and Blair Road. Alisoun, who did her part the night before from Blair Bridge to the Forest Service Headquarters, said that the bags she had left had still not been picked up by the DOT. Jane will take another look and bring them to the transfer station herself if they are still there. It was noted that despite the fact that we did not hold a cleanup last fall, there seemed to be less trash than prior years.

b. Nature Nights:

Shannon reported that we missed the deadline for getting the Nature Nights programming information into the Parks and Recreation flier. She added that Sherry Holmes from the Rey Center agreed that there are plenty of other outlets and opportunities for getting the word out to folks, as was the case last year. Shannon said that she asked the CGSB CFO to renew their \$250 sponsorship in support of the program this year. The response was that the request will be put on pending status, since the bank has no record of contributing to Nature Nights last year. Shannon explained that there was a Rey Center personnel change at the time, and it seems there was no clear paper trail that details the donation. The bank's records show a donation was made, but it was for the Cottage Festival. Alternative funding sources were brainstormed amongst the group and Shannon made a list of local businesses to send e-mails to. All agreed that \$250 was not an impossible amount to raise and Tammy requested a motion to formally secure the CCC's contribution. Jane moved to expend \$500 from the Conservation Fund in support of 2015 Nature Nights programming. Shannon seconded the motion and all were in favor.

c. BWNA/CCC Maintenance:

The BWNA parking area has been opened. Jess recently walked and cleared the

trails and observed there is some light chainsaw work needed. The Pattee trail conditions still need to be assessed , and Jane confirmed that this is a mowing year for the field, which will take place in August.

d. Conservation Matters:

We are back on track with the contributing column scheduling, and Lisa Doner from the Plymouth CCC is currently writing the next submission.

e. Beebe River Tract:

Jane handed out copies of some notes from Nancy Bell of The Conservation Fund regarding Beebe River tract progress. A Beebe River project team has been identified and consists of representatives from Trout Unlimited , WMNF, NH Fish & Game, NRCS, and The Conservation Fund. The team has been meeting and planning many infrastructure and habitat enhancements with an emphasis on restoration of the high quality trout fishery that exists in the head water streams. There is also data gathering, research, documentation, and preparation of grant applications in process. There will be a team site visit in May to inform prioritization of the work and introduce all parties to the property. There is excitement and enthusiasm all around. Jane inquired about summer field trip dates but has yet to hear from Nancy on this. Jane said that as soon as she does, she will type up a simple announcement to post around town. Alisoun asked what role the CCC should be playing in the project. Jane explained that we are partners in the outreach effort, and we should all get to know the property and learn what special aspects and potential it has since the Conservation Fund does not intend to hold onto it. Future property owners and easement holders need to be identified, and in the meantime the Conservation Fund will serve as a good steward managing the land as a multi-use property based on input from many.

f. Livermore Falls:

Jane attended the May 9 Friends of the Pemi beach cleanup and volunteer training session, since she signed up as a greeter for a weekend in August. Ken Evans from the Rotary gave a draft version of talking points, historical information, and contacts to be shared with Falls visitors. During the training a major change was agreed upon after Omer Ahearn spoke up and pointed out something no one had considered. His view was that there should be no volunteer greeters on the Campton side since it would send the wrong message to passersby. The effect of a volunteer greeter presence could draw attention and raise curiosity, potentially causing people to stop by at a later time when no one is there. Until the state gets its act together with a concrete plan for the Campton side, no further action is planned. Jane said that since that day, she was asked to serve as a representative on another site visit to the falls along with Ken Evans, Phil Bryce from DRED, someone from the Attorney General's office, and Sheilagh Connelly. Steve Rand also went, who Jane said has become a great advocate for the Plymouth/Campton side of the Falls. Jane estimated the group

spent about 3 hours between the two sides. She asked what happened to the signage plans and reminded all of the verbage recommendations submitted long ago. The response was that the state is still working on it.

Jane closed by reporting that Ann Marie asked her and Ron to go to the NH Preservation Alliance achievement awards. The Blair Bridge Project Engineers received an award which was presented by DRED's Ben Wilson who serves on the Preservation group's Board. On the back of the program, Jane noticed a call for nominations for "7 to Save" preservation projects beginning June 1st. Jane said it got her thinking and she e-mailed Ben to ask if it would be appropriate to nominate The Livermore Falls/Pumpkinseed Bridge as preservation projects. Ben thought it was a great idea and so Jane followed up with the Rotary's Ken Evans who was also on board . Alisoun asked if there were any past projects nominated involving state owned land. Jane did not know, but clarified that that there is no money awarded to nominees, but rather, the preservation group connects nominees with potential funding sources, and raises awareness of worthy sites. Alisoun said the Historical Society might like to play a role and Dave Peeler agreed.

2. Saving Special Places Workshop:

On April 11th, Alisoun and Dave attended the Saving Special Places workshop, NH's annual land conservation conference. Dave went on behalf of the Quincy Bog group. They both enjoyed the conference and said it was well organized, with lots of professionals, particularly relative to the technical details of the easement process. Dave said he was surprised at the way a special place was defined, which included small examples such as a field or a path. Alisoun said she enjoyed the opportunity to communicate with other like minded people.

3. Wetland Permit for CVP Wells:

Jane shared an e-mail exchange she had with John Whitney regarding a wetlands permit application for some work needed at the CVP wells. John confirmed that the project involves reinforcement and expansion of the stone rip-rap protection of the wells.

John also informed Jane of a grant the CVP received, funded by the NHDES and the North Country Council. The grant will support a study of the future of the river area, and a team is being assembled to represent local interests. John asked if the CCC would like to be represented on the team. Jane suggested to the group that one person be designated as the CCC representative. She will follow up with John and ask some more specific questions such as what is the role of the the team, meeting frequency, and duration of the study.

4) CCC Website Update:

Tammy proposed that this discussion be tabled, since Jess was not present and it was she who proposed the most recent idea. All agreed.

5). NRI Revision Update:

A work session was held on April 21st at the CES library. Progress was made as a group making edits to our NRI using Google Docs. The next work session will be on May 21st at 4:30 at the library.

6) Any Other Business:

At our last meeting, Alisoun proposed that we change our meeting dates to the first

Wednesday of each month, due to the March town meeting/voting date conflict each year. Alisoun said she checked to see if a new schedule would conflict with any other board meetings and learned it would not. We will make the schedule change next year, but plan to let folks know in advance.

Alisoun asked Dave Peeler if he would like to become an official CCC member, and Dave said yes. Alisoun will follow up with a recommendation to the Select Board.

Tammy showed the group a DVD she purchased titled "The Power of Place", a new documentary about the Northern Pass opposition. She hasn't viewed it yet, but after she does will share it with others. She will ask the CHS if they are interested in showing it and also the Pease library. Tammy also reported that there is a Northern Pass opposition meeting on June 7th, at the Easton Town Hall, from 3:30-5:30. How to have a voice in the upcoming Federal and state permitting process will be discussed. She will do her best to attend.

Meeting adjourned: 8:40 pm
Next meeting: June 10, 2015; 7 pm
Shannon will chair

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster