

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 10, 2015; 7pm

Members present: Jane Kellogg, Jess Halm, Alisoun Hodges, Shannon Garnsey, Tammy Wooster

Others present: David Peeler

Shannon served as chair and called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

1) May Minutes approval:

Jess made a motion to accept the May meeting minutes. Alisoun seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2) Ongoing Projects:

a. Nature Nights Updates:-additional funding and promotion:

Shannon secured a \$125 donation from Meredith Village Savings Bank towards the funding of this summer's Nature Nights program at Blair Woodland. MVSB representative Nancy Mardin had requested a W-9 tax form from the town. Jane said she got the form and forwarded it to Nancy about a week ago. We still need to secure an additional \$125 to meet the \$750 goal, and Shannon and Jess are still waiting for responses from area businesses they solicited. Tammy said she would ask The Little Red Schoolhouse for sponsorship. It was noted that the program begins July 2nd, and additional sponsors will not be listed on the flier since it has already been printed. Sherry Holmes said that sponsors will be listed on the Rey center website. All agreed that we can also recognize sponsors by posting them on the BWNA kiosk, and mention the donors at each program. Shannon said she is spreading the word about Nature Nights through a parent Facebook page, and will also ask to post it on the Plymouth Chamber website. Jess will take care of getting the \$500 check from the Conservation Fund to Sherry Holmes. Jane moved to spend \$5-10 from the CCC budget to cover color printing of the Nature Nights poster. Tammy seconded the motion and all were in favor. Dave suggested printing a few extra to save for sharing our work with others. Alisoun will try and print a few posters on her personal printer.

b. BWNA/PCP Maintenance updates:

Jess and Shannon, along with their kids, recently cleared the BWNA trails, and Jane worked on the knotweed section along the rte 3 road frontage. Jess said she

will go back with a pole saw to cut some long branches she noticed in the driveway area blocking the view coming from the south. Tammy said that she went to clear the trails at PCP and someone had already done the work. She assumed it was Jess but Jess said it wasn't her, and maybe it was the same person that mowed a path to the Elm tree. It seems we have a mystery volunteer. The rest of the perimeter path still needs mowing, and Tammy and Jess will take turns mowing over the summer. Dave offered to trim around the Elm tree fence with his string trimmer. Jane asked if anyone knew whether the Lane's house had sold, since the For Sale sign was gone. She added if anyone sees people at the house it might be a good idea to stop and say hello and explain the CCC's role in managing the PCP.

c. Livermore Falls:

Jane reported that the Friends of the Pemi volunteer greeters group have had a presence on nice weekends on the Holderness side. She stopped by recently and observed 40-50 visitors, mostly floaters headed to Plymouth. Some state employees also came to take away trash while Jane was there. Jane shared two newspaper articles relative to Livermore Falls, one of which reported an accident that occurred when a woman was injured using the rope swing. The second article highlighted the recent study done by the state to research the historic and cultural heritage of the area. The Director of Historic Sites was quoted in the article as recommending that the Pumpkinseed Bridge be preserved and could serve as a future pedestrian bridge. Jane said that the Friends Group has yet to see the referenced report, but its good news that the article is bringing attention to the area. Alisoun said there needs to be a major cleanup on the Campton side before a pedestrian bridge becomes a reality, and perhaps the public recognition of the bridge's historic value will speed up the process. Shannon added that if the pedestrian bridge does get built, it may deter folks from jumping off the bridge and rocks since it will be a more public place. Alisoun asked if there will be regular paid patrols of Livermore Falls this summer and Jane said no there were no funds budgeted for this purpose, but people from the state will be stopping by.

d. Beebe River Tract:

Jane expressed disappointment at not having heard from Nancy Bell from the Conservation Fund after reaching out to her with two e-mails. Nancy had promised to provide the CCC with a list of summer field trips to the Beebe River Tract, so that we could help spread the word about the project. Jane said that Fish & Game and Trout Unlimited were recently electroshocking fish in the Beebe River Tribs documenting what is there. These groups are highly invested in this project since they have identified the property as having some of the best trout habitat in the state. They will be working to rebuild culverts on tributaries that are

critical trout passageways. We will continue to reach out to the Conservation Fund to offer our assistance and in the meantime will visit the property on our own.

e. Northern Pass:

Tammy reported that she had to work, and so did not attend the June 7th Northern Pass opposition meeting in Easton. She did, however find an audio recording of the first hour of the meeting which she listened to and took notes. The audio link can be found at www.briantilton.com/northernpass-eastonmeeting060715.html. Tammy recommended that everyone visit the site which is full of information and links regarding the upcoming DOE and SEC permitting process. One important upcoming CCC action item will be to submit written comments in response to the DOE's Draft Environmental Impact Statement which is due out any time. Northern Pass is expected to submit their application to the state Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) in the coming months, which will involve a lengthy adjudicative process. In order to have a voice in this process, one has to register with the SEC as an intervenor. To meet the SEC requirement as an intervenor, one has to demonstrate that they have a special interest different from a member of the general public. Examples include business and property owners along the route that will be directly impacted. Towns along the route should be working to identify and encourage potential intervenors. Jess read aloud an e-mail she received from George Wright asking her to attend a Northern Pass meeting at the Historic Society this very night. The e-mail explained the purpose of the meeting, which is to discuss potential impacts that Northern Pass may have on historic places in Campton, as the Historic Society filed a section 106 petition as intervenors. Tammy agreed that the section 106 process is important, but clarified the term used should be consulting party rather than intervenor. All agreed that we should ramp up efforts to educate people about these upcoming opportunities to comment and participate in all of the permitting processes. Tammy suggested submitting a joint letter to the editor from all of the Town Boards appealing to potential intervenors along the route. All agreed this was a good idea and Jess offered to respond to George Wright's e-mail and suggest this idea.

3. **NHACC:**

Nik Coates from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions recently sent the CCC an e-mail requesting a phone interview with Greg Hessel from Regeneration Resources. The NHACC has some new ideas about how to better serve conservation commissions, and is asking for feedback. Several date and time options were listed and the group reviewed them together. Jess will follow up with Greg and request an interview for June 26th after 11:00.

4. Land Conservation Outreach:

Jane recently received an e-mail inquiry from an Ellsworth Hill property owner who is potentially interested in purchasing an adjacent property that is currently for sale. His inquiry was relative to conservation easements, and Jane followed up and had a preliminary conversation with him relative to conservation easements and current use.

5. CCC website:

Since our last meeting, Beverly Chappell read of our potential CCC website plans in the minutes and generously offered input and assistance. Beverly explained that if the CCC were to have its own dedicated website, it would need to register a domain name within the town's web hosting account at a cost of approx \$12.00/year. The PD, Town Clerk, and Historical Society are all separate websites hosted in the Town's account and maintained individually. Whoever is maintaining the site has to make sure the platform is agreeable with the web server. Discussion was had, and all agreed that a separate CCC website would be more useful for outreach and could contain many links and updates of our work. Jane moved to expend \$11.95 plus an additional \$50 from our budget to get a start on creating our website. Jess seconded the motion and all were in favor. Jess has been in touch with Leona Minnicucci who is still interested in doing this work for us. She will notify Leona of our decision and Tammy will follow up with Beverly.

6. NRI Revision:

We held a work session on May21st at the CES library where we continued to edit our NRI document. Our next work session will be on Tuesday, June 23rd, at 5 pm, again at the library.

7. Policy and/or regulatory changes for PB:

Jane recently attended a PRLAC meeting where the Pemi Revised River Management plan was discussed. Jane said that there is an emphasis on stormwater management and how important it is for water quality. PRLAC is trying to get towns to think more about this subject and incorporate it into planning. This got Jane to thinking about how the Planning Board reviews site plans and subdivision proposals. In her experience there has been little conversation relative to stormwater management and she would like to see that changed. Jane showed the group a booklet titled "NH Homeowners Guide to Stormwater Mangement" that she plans to share with the Planning Board at their July meeting. She added that the Planning Board could add the subject of stormwater management to their site review checklist. Jane also mentioned that there is no discussion of stormwater managemen between the

selectboard and property owners coming before them for building permits. She suggested that a simple brochure explaining how homeowners can better manage stormwater could be helpful. Tammy said that stormwater management has been a hot topic at the NH DES Water Conference the past couple of years, and there is likely lots of information already available to share.

9. Mail:

The CCC received at the North Country Scenic Byway Council River Heritage Trail Corridor Management Plan.

10. Other Business:

Dave Peeler said that he is scheduled to meet with the Select Board at their next meeting and hopes to be sworn in as a CCC member soon thereafter. Tammy asked Jane if she heard anything from the Campton Village Precinct regarding their invitation to the CCC to be part of the NHDES funded river area study. Jane said that she followed up with John Whitney expressing our interest to serve on the team but has received no response.

Meeting adjourned: 9:25 pm
Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster