

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2015;7pm

Members present: Shannon Garnsey, Jess Halm, Alisoun Hodges, Jane Kellogg, Dave Peeler, Rebecca Steeves, Tammy Wooster

Others present: Leona Minicucci

Alisoun served as chair and called the meeting to order at 7:05. Jane moved to approve the June Meeting minutes. Dave seconded the motion and all were in favor.

1). Website Progress:

Alisoun handed out copies of a website wishlist that Jess and Leona Minncucci had drafted. Leona showed the group a website mockup she created on her laptop. Ideas for separate navigation tabs and drop-down menus were discussed and recorded. Rebecca will post the outline on Google Docs and all will edit and provide updated material. Tammy said that Beverly offered to check with Ann Marie to see if we can get approval from the SelectBoard to use the Town's account as a hosting site. All agreed that we should put Leona in charge of working through these details with Beverly, and Tammy will put Leona in touch with her. Leona was thanked for her work and left the meeting.

2). Ongoing Projects:

a. Nature Nights:

Alisoun handed out copies she made of the Nature Nights announcement poster. Jess and Shannon have posted copies all around town, and everyone took an extra copy keep on hand. Shannon said that Meredith Village Savings Bank made their \$125 sponsorship check payable to the CCC. Shannon had the check deposited into the Conservation Fund, and then requested that \$625 be redrawn and made payable to the Rey Center. The \$625 included the \$500 CCC contribution and the MVSb donation. Corey Smith, owner of The Little Red School House generously offered to cover the remaining \$125 sponsorship, and was provided the mailing details for the Rey Center.

b. Livermore Falls:

Jane reported on the Seven to Save project nomination progress. She said that there was support for the idea of nominating the Pumpkinseed Bridge, but there is some uncertainty as to who actually owns the bridge. Research revealed that the bridge was originally built by the towns of Holderness, Plymouth and Campton as a collaborative project to serve as a connection and river crossing. At some point the bridge was closed and sold as scrap to someone, who attempted to

take the bridge down, but failed. At some point some think that this person either sold their rights to the bridge, but no record has been found. Alisoun asked if there is any way to engineer ownership of the bridge and Jess said that it's likely that no one wants the liability, and pointed out that the abutments are on state property. Rebecca wondered if the focus of the nomination could be changed to the whole property rather than just the bridge. Jane said that this was discussed as a possibility, and that a local attorney has agreed to poke around and look further into the ownership history. Alisoun expressed frustration that there are still no signs posted on the Campton side of the falls and asked how we can get the state to move faster. Jane said that we are still waiting on the official release of the Cultural Resources report and this report will generate recommendations that will re-energize progress on the Campton side. Jane said that to date she has served as a volunteer greeter at the Holderness side for two days and has observed that the majority of visitors have been folks tubing down the river. She asked that another CC member accompany her on Aug 15th which is her next volunteer date. The job consists of counting heads, asking people where they are from, and providing materials to folks about the history of the area. T-shirts are also sold for \$10. Alisoun asked if the parking area plan had been finalized and Jane said there is now a fifth version.

c. Beebe River Tract:

Shannon reported that she and Jess recently took a walk to explore the Beebe River Tract. They observed the new signs posted by the Conservation Fund marking the entrance to the property. Jane said that she ran into Butch Bain who told her that Nancy Bell from the Conservation Fund had attended a Select Board meeting. Jane was disappointed that the CCC wasn't notified of Nancy's attendance, and would have liked to have been there. Shannon said that she will follow up with Nancy to ask about the Select Board meeting and share her visit to the property.

d. NHACC Interview:

Jess reported that on June 26th, she participated in a telephone interview requested by the NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC). There were 6 questions, each of which followed the same format. The purpose of the interview was to gauge interest in utilizing some new services the NHACC is proposing to offer. Questions asked were how much per year our town hires out or uses volunteer time for legal counsel, grant writing, land stewardship, trail work, and easement monitoring. Also asked was if these services were made available by the NHACC, how likely would we use them? Jess responded that we would not likely use these services, but rather would tap into the Local Government Center (LGC) or consult our own town attorney, as we have in the past. Jess added that if we did use any of these services, the land stewardship and easement monitoring would be the most useful. Rebecca recalled filling out a similar paper survey before, and Alisoun said that it seems more fitting to use local people for these services. Jess pointed out that the services the NHACC is proposing will not be free, but users will receive a 15% discount and there will potentially be a \$145 dues increase.

e. Blair Woodlands Beach Trees:

Loretta Muzzi from the Red Sleigh condos recently inquired about some large trees that washed up along the BWNA beach area. The group recalled this wash-up occurred last summer during high flow conditions and it was decided to leave them at the time. The discussion was revisited, and Jess said that Ian would be willing to cut a chainsaw path through the trees which would provide easier access to the beach. Jane wondered whether cutting the trees would cause the large root mass to move during future high flows. Tammy recalled that our past decision to leave them was to serve as an example of what happens during high flow conditions. Jess said that she remembered Sherry Holmes, from the Rey Center saying that she would have used the beach in Nature Nights programming if there had been easier access. Jane brought the BWNA binder to the meeting and read aloud the deed restrictions which were established when Leah Gray donated the property to the Town. One of the restrictions listed was the cutting or removal of vegetation, but specified that it was up to the discretion of town officials. Jane said that after reading Loretta's email she called Leah Gray and Leah said that people used to love using the beach and recalled her own childhood memories at the beach area. Jane said that talking to Leah made her feel better about cutting the trees and all agreed that Ian should go ahead and do it. Discretion will be used in placing the cut pieces to reduce erosion control and perhaps serve as steps down towards the beach.

3). Northern Pass:

The CCC along with George Wright and Tom Mullen, recently submitted a Letter to the Editor to 11 area newspapers. The purpose of the letter was to educate readers about how to become an intervenor in the Sight Evaluation Committee permit process. Alisoun bought in a copy of the Laconia Daily Sun to show that the letter had been published. Tammy said that the Editor of the Caledonian Record called her and said he was publishing the letter, but had a one author policy. Tammy asked if the author could be listed as the CCC, but the editor said a name had to be associated with it so he used Tammy's name. All will keep a look out for the letter in other papers. Tammy said she will soon be sending an e-mail to the North Country CC's in an effort to revitalize a coordinated CC opposition group. Jess said that it's our turn in August to submit an article to the Conservation Matters column and proposed that we use the Northern Pass letter. Since column submission rules dictate that content be politically neutral, Jess will rework the article to conform to this policy.

4). Jane's Visit with Planning Board:

Jane's proposal of incorporating stormwater management into the Planning Board site plan review and building permit checklist has been postponed to July 14th.

5).NRI Revision:

The CCC held a work session in June to continue working on our NRI. Jess and George

Wright also worked on drafting an outline of the Northern Pass letter. There will be no regular business meeting in August, but we will hold another work session at the library on July 29th, at 4:30. We will work on both the NRI, and website edits.

6) FYI:

Jane reminded the group of the Livermore Falls second Saturday sessions, and the next one will be on August 8th at 10am. The history of Livermore Falls will be presented, and the September session will be led by Max Stamp who will discuss water quality.

7). Mail:

The CCC received a letter from the Mason Conservation Commission. The letter was a call for other CC's to sign a letter of opposition to the proposed gas pipeline project in the southern part of the state. Jess made copies of the letter for all to take home and review. Signatures are requested by August 1st, and those who wish to sign the letter will do so at our July 29 work session.

Meeting adjourned, 9:15 pm
No meeting in August;
Next meeting Sept 9, 2015;7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster