

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 6, 2016; 7 pm

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

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

1. Website:

Leona Minicucci submitted a bill for \$150 to be pay for 10 hours of website work. Jess forwarded the bill to Carina and the funds will be encumbered. There is still work to do and focus will resume after our NRI is completed.

2. Nancy Bell Communication Update:

Nancy Bell from the Conservation Fund contacted the CCC asking for help coordinating an inclusive town gathering to update the Select Board and citizens on the Beebe River Tract progress to date. She requested an early March date but this was ruled out due to Town Meeting being too close. Jane will ask Carina if the Select Board would be willing to dedicate 45 minutes of one of their April meetings for a Beebe River Tract presentation/Q&A session. If this is not possible, we will schedule a separate date that Select Board members attend. Nancy also asked if we could display Beebe River Tract materials at Town meeting as we did last year. The group thought this would be a good way to advertise and stir up interest in the upcoming meeting. Alisoun will follow up with Nancy to identify what specific coordinating help she needs from us and also request Town Meeting display materials.

3. Livermore Falls:

On Dec 29th, Alisoun and Jane attended a Friends of the Pemi meeting where they reviewed the final Livermore Falls Holderness side parking area plans. Alisoun said the plan was beautifully thought out with an ample 75 spaces, and consideration given to abutting property trees. The hope is to begin lot construction in the spring. Jane and Alisoun attended the January 4th Select Board meeting to provide a Livermore Falls update along with Ken Evans and Steve Rand from the Friends/Rotary group. Slides of the Campton side were shown depicting some of the mill history. Jane explained that after a flood event, the mill was abandoned, and some time later the turbines were pulled out to be re-used elsewhere. This created openings that changed the river's flow and water levels leading to the present day erosion issues.

Ken Evans made a 2 page list of Friends Group accomplishments with a time-line to leave with the Selectmen. The message was clear that the Friends Group is active, has built a good relationship with state and stakeholder groups, and is now ready to get to work on the Campton side of the Falls.

One concern brought up by the Select Board was that the mill has been added to the dam list created by The DES Dam Bureau. The list is provided to the Board each year and the mill has not previously been on the list. There is a January 27th Friends Group meeting scheduled, and a representative from the Dam Bureau will attend. Jane reported that a few Historical Society members attended a Livermore

Falls mill site visit in December after she and Alisoun encouraged involvement at one of their meetings.

4. Bobcats:

We received a letter from the Stoddard Conservation Commission asking us to join other NH CC's in opposing the limited bobcat hunting and trapping season proposed for Dec/Jan 2016. The group discussed their personal views on this issue and identified areas where more information is needed before deciding whether to take a CC position. Fish & Game will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed rules on Feb 1st at 6pm at Representatives Hall at the State House. CC members will try to attend, and written comments can also be submitted by Feb 10th. Jess will follow up with the Stoddard CC.

5. Wildlife Action Plan:

Alisoun shared a notice of a NH Fish & Game presentation on the 2015 updated Wildlife Action Plan. It will be held in Concord on Jan 14th from 6-7:30 pm. Online registration is requested on the Fish & Game website.

6. Northern Pass:

Tammy updated the group on permit process developments to date. The state Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) has deemed the NPT application complete and there are required information sessions and hearings scheduled. The post application information session relevant to Grafton County is on January 21st at 6pm at The Loon Mountain Club. These sessions are hosted by Northern Pass.

The format will be the same as the last session the CCC attended. Within 90 days of December 22nd 2015 will be SEC hosted Public Hearings. The Grafton County hearing location is tentatively scheduled for Waterville Valley. These hearings will for the first time provide the opportunity to ask questions and submit comments to the applicant (NPT) AND the SEC subcommittee. Representatives of state agencies that have permitting or other regulatory authority in the SEC permitting process will attend.

The deadline for applying for SEC intervenor status is close of business Feb 5th. Several towns where above ground lines are being proposed have recently requested to intervene, as well as towns slated for underground lines that will potentially impact conservation lands and wetlands. The Dept. of Energy (DOE) deadline to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is April 4th, 2016. The CCC plans to submit comments.

7. Annual Report:

Jane drafted the 2015 CCC Annual Report and asked the group for final edits. She will make the changes, circulate the final version and submit it to Carina.

8. Updates:

a. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) progress:

Ron Reynolds has finalized the maps for the NRI and they are ready to insert in the document when the

text is ready. Our next work session is Saturday, January 9th from 8-10:30 @ Jane & Ron's house.

b. Bog Walk:

Our 2016 Campton Pond Bog Walk is on Sunday, Jan 31st from 2-4 pm. Jane passed around copies of the announcement flier for all to post around town. Jess will send a submission to the Talk of The Towns, and also use some money donated by Leah Gray to purchase refreshment supplies. Rebecca will bring an urn of hot water. We will keep a close eye on the ice conditions and skirt the edges of the bog if necessary.

c. Town Meeting prep/display:

In addition to the Beebe River Tract materials already discussed, we will display our NRI if it is complete.

d. Blair Woodlands:

Ian Halm put up the BWNA parking lot closure sign and cable. Martha Aguiar and family visited the BWNA to look for a potential Jim Aguiar memorial bench site.

e. Road Agent response to Perch Pond Road:

Jane reported that she had left a message for the Road Agent informing him of road runoff into Perch Pond that was brought to the CC's attention by a concerned resident. The runoff seemed to be caused by recent ditching work, which was confirmed by a CCC site visit. Jane revisited the site and said that staked hay bales have been placed. The bales will serve as a temporary fix, but a more permanent solution should be sought in the spring.

f. Snowmobile Trail follow-up:

Jess spoke with Dean Johnston about the tree cutting at the interface of the snowmobile trail and a vernal pool. Dean said that the cutting is not a bona fide snowmobile club activity but individual members conduct trail work at times. Dean said he would put stakes up to prevent snowmobiles from driving over the vernal pool. A great conversation was had about vernal pools and Jess asked that the club be on the lookout for areas that are seasonally wet or do not hold fish, and if vernal pools are found, to pin the location so the CC can document it.

g: Other Business:

Tammy reported that she called May Brosseau to inquire about an upcoming public hearing relative to amending the allowed uses in the Forest Conservation Zone. The allowance of multiple family dwellings is being proposed, so long as they conform to other requirements of the zoning ordinance. May's understanding is that this is in response to comments the Planning Board has received from several residents seeking to create additional living space for their aging families. She also said that this is the only area of town where multiple family dwellings are not allowed. The group reviewed relevant sections of the zoning ordinance and were unsure how to interpret some of the language. Concerns about opening up the possibility for future condo development were discussed, as well as the original intent of establishing the Forest Conservation Zone. Jane and Dave will attend the Jan 11th public hearing to learn more.

g. Mail:

Mail opened included a copy of the True Colors estimate for NRI printing, a 2016 NHACC membership bill, a SLA watershed planning meeting announcement, and a UNH professional

development training flier.

Meeting adjourned: 9:08 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 3rd; 7pm

Dave will serve as Chair

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster