

**Campton Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 1, 2017; 7pm**

Commissioners Present: Shannon Garnsey, Jess Halm, Jane Kellogg, Dave Peeler, Rebecca Steeves, Tammy Wooster

Others Present: Ashley Clark

Rebecca served as chair and called the meeting to order at 7:05. Jane welcomed Campton Resident Ashley Clark who expressed an interest in joining the Commission. Ashley bought a house in Campton in Oct 2016, and is a PSU Center for the Environment graduate. She formerly worked for the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) where she put her mapping skills to use. She is now employed at the New Hampton School. Jane explained the process for becoming a CC member to Ashley. Shannon will check on terms for existing members to see who is up for renewal this year.

1. Minutes:

Jess moved to accept the January meeting minutes. Rebecca seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2. Bog Walk Debrief:

The group recapped our 5th annual Frozen Bog Walk, which was once again led by former commissioner Lea Stewart. Conditions were ideal for track finding, with the fresh powder over packed snow and ice. 28 people attended with some newcomers this year. Tracks observed included Red/Gray Squirrel, Red/Gray Fox, coyote, Snowshoe Hare, mink and fisher cat. Jess suggested that in future years, we should be sure to schedule an ice thickness check close to the event, as Ron Reynolds did for us this year.

3. Annual Report:

Jane drafted and submitted the CC's year in review for the Annual Town Report. She noted that there is a small space open that Ron could insert a photo for us. Shannon suggested a picture of our NRI cover.

4. Town Meeting Materials:

Ideas for what to display at Town Meeting/voting days were considered. We will pull together a photo display of 5 years of our Bog walk tracking event, and also showcase our newly completed NRI.

5. Updates:

a. Blanchard House Training Burn:

The controlled burn at the PCP Blanchard House is scheduled to take place late winter. Jess learned that one of the firefighters had to complete a required training/certification, and she will report back in March with a burn date confirmation. Our preference is to have the burn completed before the nearby oak tree becomes active.

b. Northern Pass:

Tammy reported that the SEC dismissed the town petition to clarify what state laws say about the use of municipal roads by utilities. The petition was started by Pittsburg Select Chairman Steve Ellis and was signed by 18 towns. Steve sent a letter to all of the NH Select Boards of towns along the proposed route asking for petition co-signers. Tammy sent an e-mail to Carina asking if our Select Board received the letter. Carina confirmed, and said that initial Board consensus was to sign on, after researching the associated RSA. Jess added that she recently spoke with Peter Laufenburg, who said the Board did sign the letter.

Other Northern Pass news reported was the NH Supreme Court decision to uphold the lower court ruling that Northern pass has the right to bury lines under Rte. 3 in Clarksville. The suit was brought on by The Forest Society, who argues that Northern Pass, being a private corporation, is different from other large scale utility projects. No word as to what the Forest Society plans to do next.

c. Livermore Falls:

Jane reported that the next Friends of the Pemi meeting will be on Feb 16th @ 11:00 am at the Town Office. It is likely the archaeological work report will be discussed at the meeting, and Ben Wilson from DRED will have more to present. Jane assumes the Fire and Police chief will also be present. Jane will attend, and maybe Shannon.

d. BWNA sign ideas:

The current winter closure sign set up for the BWNA parking area needs improvement. Ideas for an alternative cable & hanging sign were discussed. There is no urgency at the moment, but it would be good to get a new one up before snowmelt conditions make it more likely someone will attempt to park there.

e. Campton 250th:

There is nothing new to report in connection with the event's planned use of the Pattee field, but we expect to become more involved as the celebration approaches. The CCC's banner has not yet been hung to the group's knowledge. Jess read aloud an email from Carol Lenahan that 60 banners have been sold to date, there are 15 additional requests, and 29 banners have been hung.

6. Rte 175 Proposed rental unit site:

On 1/16 Jane and Rebecca visited the proposed site for a 2 building/5 unit apartment complex across from the Dole Mill. The site visit was part of a DES Shoreland Permit review (file # 2016-03561), and was attended by landowner Kurt O'Donnell and agent Tom Duffield. Driveway/drainage questions were answered and recommendations for keeping runoff onsite were made.

7. Nature Nights Sponsorship:

New ideas for how to structure and fund the 2017 Nature Nights program were discussed. We will look into having multiple naturalists instead of the same dedicated naturalist for the entire program. A list of people who specialize in different topics was brainstormed, including CC members. Jess will reach out to people she knows to gauge interest and commitment, and we will decide in March if this is feasible or whether we will use the Rey Center again to help run the program.

8. Conservation Planning:

A work session was held on 1/18, and was attended by Jess, Jane, and Rebecca. Information Jess gathered from a NHACC workshop on Conservation Planning was used to draft an outline for a Conservation Plan which is now posted on Google Docs for review. Our next work session will be on Wed., Feb 15th from 4:30 to 6:00 pm.

9. Outreach

Rebecca shared that after recent communication with the Woodstock CC through her teaching job, she felt inclined to somehow reach out further in an effort to connect their group to the more active area CC's. She will invite them to the next Regional meeting of local CC's which is usually held in Plymouth.

Discussion turned to the missed opportunity to nominate a Campton Middle School Student for a scholarship to the Barre Conservation camp this summer. The information was late coming and the deadline has passed. Rebecca had the idea of making a note in the monthly To-Do list in our CC binder so as not to miss the deadline next year.

10. Pike Property Sale:

It's been awhile since we've heard anything about the Pike Property that was brought to our attention by the owner. Rebecca recently heard that the property or a portion of it was now for sale and wondered if it would be possible for the CCC to simply manage it as open space. Shannon will look further into whether the land is indeed for sale.

11. Mail:

Mail opened included a Shoreland Permit application for Kurt O'Connell, and a Non-Site Specific Wetlands Permit for stream improvements on the Beebe River Tract.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 pm
Next meeting: Wed., March 1; 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster