

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2017; 7pm

Members Present: Shannon Garnsey, Jane Kellogg, Dave Peeler, Rebecca Steeves, Tammy Wooster

Others Present: Campton resident Dick Osborne

Dave served as chair, and called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. We were reminded that the month of April is always designated as our Lands Management meeting. Tammy moved to accept Jane's March meeting minutes. Shannon seconded the motion and all were in favor.

BWNA:

The parking area at Blair Woodlands remains closed for the winter, and likely will remain so for awhile due to the extended snow cover, and the typically late melting conditions there. Future project/action items discussed were updating and revitalization of the BWNA Trail Guide and kiosk. Jane will check with True Colors Printing to see if there is a digital copy of the guide, and also ask Melissa Greenawalt, the guide's author. Our spring roadside cleanup date is April 23rd, at which time we will walk the BWNA trails and see if there are any trees that need clearing.

2017 Nature Nights programming was discussed, and the group identified 5 people including CCC members who will lead the program this year. Each program will feature a different topic, to be determined by the specialty of the leader. The program will continue to be geared toward families with young children, and will run approximately an hour. Nature Nights will run from July 13th through August 3rd, on Thursday evenings at 6 pm. Group leaders will be contacted to secure their date preference so we can begin to build a schedule of topics to advertise.

PCP:

Planning is well underway for the town's 250th celebration at the PCP on Sept. 30th. Monthly committee meetings are being held, and to date there are plans for a large tent with a dance floor, vendors, kids activities, a barbecue, and fireworks. Temporary electricity will be needed at the site, at a cost estimate of \$ 200-\$300. The town has budgeted for this. Carol Lenahan had asked if permanent electricity installation should be considered at this time, which was estimated to cost \$2000-\$3000. CCC consensus was no, since a need or purpose hasn't been identified. Shannon suggested that a future more appropriate permanent electricity option for the site could include a solar powered system.

This year is a mowing year for the PCP field, which is typically done in August, after nesting birds have fledged. We may have to adjust this timing and/or consider a second mowing to accommodate the celebration. Dick Osborne suggested we could leave a portion of the field un-mowed, and hold a scything contest as part of the festivities. He also offered the use of his brush hog if we could secure a trailer. Tammy said she has a friend who is looking for a place to temporarily graze a couple of rams which could be an option. Mike Rej has done the mowing work in the past, and Tammy will contact him to ask his availability and fee estimate.

A PCP property abutter mentioned to Jane that locals pick blueberries from a few patches in the field, and that we may want to avoid mowing these areas. All agreed we should stake these patches out. Jane will ask Carol if there are any Liberty Tree maintenance needs for this year.

Jess will be meeting with the FD tomorrow to get an update on the Blanchard House controlled burn plan, and will follow up with us via email. There will be some cleanup required on our part after the burn. Jane will be attending the next 250th committee meeting where she will schedule a PCP site visit to include committee and CCC members. Jane suggested we brainstorm a list of potential concerns or impacts to the property for her to bring to the meeting. Discussion topics identified were parking area siting to minimize field impact, fire safety, and cleanup plans.

Other Business:

Livermore Falls:

Jane attended the Livermore Falls meeting today, along with other Campton representation including Carina and the Police and Fire Chiefs. Jane reported that plans for the Campton side are in the works, but expects slow progress due to complications. Ben Wilson from DRED made a site visit to the mill ruins and crawled around inside. He saw some structural issues that he wasn't aware of that were alarming in terms of safety. An engineering study will go out to bid, but first, questions that the group wants answered by the study need to be identified. Jane learned that a railroad crossing bridge may not be needed, if there is an At Grade Crossing Agreement between the state railroad entity and railroad owner Hobo RR/Clarks Trading Post. There are still plans to purchase private property for parking, and Ken Evans from the Friends group announced \$3,000 in grant money is available for signage.

Northern Pass:

Jane attended the March 28th PRLAC meeting and brought back a written summary of PRLAC's involvement as a Northern Pass intervener to date. The official Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) trial begins April 13th, and testimony and supporting documents are being prepared. Max Stamp from PRLAC welcomes letters from towns, private citizens, and businesses expressing concerns about Northern Pass' potential impacts to the Pemigewasset River. If received by April 15th, letters will be added to PRLAC's testimony as part of the input from river corridor towns. The group wondered what else could be said aside from formal statements the CCC has already submitted. Jane will send an email to Max expressing concern about impacts to the river along rte 3 during the line burial process. Given the lack of information provided about which side of Rte 3 the line will be installed, there is also concern about disruption to the Livermore falls project.

SEC bus tour stops to sites along the proposed Northern Pass route were scheduled for April 6, and 7th, but were postponed due to weather. Livermore Falls was a planned stop. A new competing large scale hydro project proposal bringing Canadian power through NH and VT was announced by National Grid. This project would use the existing ROW and transmission towers in the state, with no need of ROW expansion.

Tammy reported there is a Hands around the State House Northern Pass opposition rally planned for April 23rd. Orange is encouraged as all join hands in opposition encircling the state house. A signed petition will be delivered to the Governor's office the following day.

Expedited Wetlands Permit:

A Conservation Planning work session was scheduled for March 29th, but the focus was changed after a request for review of an Expedited Wetlands Permit was received. A few CCC members met with Joel DeStacio of Trout Unlimited, who explained work planned for early summer to replace 5 perched metal road stream crossing culverts in the Beebe River Uplands tract with larger diameter plastic culverts at grade level. Concrete abutments and steel stringer bridges with wooden platforms will be installed. The goal is to improve trout habitat by re-engaging upstream tributaries with the Beebe River. An added benefit will be the infrastructure's ability to withstand a 100 year storm event.

The CCC signed the permit application and since Joel traveled from the Portsmouth area, he asked the CCC to hand deliver the packet to the Town Clerk for signing, and provided a self addressed stamped envelope for the application's return mailing. Shannon telephoned the town offices on Thursday 3/30 and was notified that the town clerk was out of the office until Monday 4/3, at which time the permits could then be dropped off. The permit packets were accepted for review and signature by the town clerk on Wednesday 4/5. As of this CCC meeting date and time, Shannon reported she was still waiting to get a call from the town clerk that the permits were ready to be picked up.

Site Visit Update:

On 3/27 Jane and Rebecca made a site visit for a Shoreland Permit Application north of the Covered Bridge restaurant. Mike O'Donnell from PRLAC and John March were also present. There were no concerns, as the site was fairly level, and the trees to be left in place were clearly delineated.

Mail:

Mail received included a Grafton County District Commission meeting announcement, and a DOT request for review of a Rte 3 culvert replacement plan to capture stormwater conveyance. Specifically, the CCC was asked if there are any concerns relative to invasives, and impacts to wetland or historic sites. Jane will drive by and look at the site.

Jane asked Dick if he was interested in joining the CCC, and Dick responded yes. Shannon will make the appointment recommendation to the Select Board.

Meeting adjourned: 9:35 pm
Next meeting: Wed., May 3rd: 7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wooster

