

## Campton Conservation Commission

### Minutes for the Meeting of July 5, 2017

#### Members present

Rebecca Steeves Richard Osborne, David Peeler, Jess Talbot Halm (presiding chair of the meeting )

Minutes for the last meeting of June 2017 were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Melissa and was seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

The commission then heard a presentation by George Wright on the status of Northern Pass. Hearings of the NH Site Evaluation Committee are continuing in Concord and in George's opinion it is unlikely NP will be passed. He did bring to our attention a new proposal from National Grid, another power distribution company, that would bring power down from HydroQuebec using existing power lines in a right of way that has already been awarded. This follows an existing power line corridor. He presented a letter from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests that encourages the authorities to choose this alternative plan.

The commissioners discussed the letter and decided unanimously that we would need to rewrite the letter to more accurately present our conservation concerns.

We feel that it is a better alternative than Northern Pass due to its smaller effect on the environment but the National Grid proposal will need to go through the same evaluation process before their plan could be fully endorsed. We will rewrite a letter to reflect these concerns. We will need to send the final letter before July 12 when the Site Evaluation Committee stops hearing public opinions.

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The group would also like to hear the opinion of Tom Wagner, the forest planner for the White Mountain National Forest, on the environmental impact of these plans on the White Mountain National Forest.

George was thanked for his presentation to the commission.

We then discussed the ongoing plans for this year's Nature Nights, an educational series for children and adults. This will run weekly each Tuesday evening at the Blair Woodland starting July 17 and ending on August 15. Shannon has 5 of 6 nights covered with presenters. This is in collaboration with the Rey Center in Waterville Valley. Speakers will receive \$75 for participation. Several possible speakers were discussed for the 6<sup>th</sup> night. Dick Osborne will contact Rosalind Lowen to see if she would like to participate.

The group then discussed the commission's participation in the celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of Campton. The group unanimously agreed on actively participating in the September 30<sup>th</sup> event at Pattee Town Park. Possible roles including directing parking and setting up the site for parking.

The CTFD is planning the controlled burn of the old house on Pattee Town Park on July 15. We will need to arrange final cleanup of the burn site. We will need to get quotes from several people. Dick Osborne will contact Mike Rej to arrange for a close mowing on the park before the event on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. Also of interest was the discovery of a path from Pattee Park to the Blair Forest. This could enhance the access to the forest and increase its use.

We then discussed the upcoming edition of *Conservation Matters* in the Plymouth Record Enterprise which is our responsibility to write. Melissa volunteered to write an article and circulate it to members for suggestions. This was agreed upon by the members.

The commission members reviewed recently approved permits for work on wetlands related to the Beebe River /Trout Unlimited restoration project. This included a Wetlands Permit to Eversource in their powerline right-of-way in this same area

It was decided to schedule a farewell party for Tammy Wooster on Thursday July 27. Details will be arranged and sent out to all members

The commission reviewed the work done at this meeting, found no further items to discuss at this meeting and decided the next meeting would be on August 2. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.