

Campton Conservation Commission

Minutes of meeting of August 2, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Rebecca Steeves

Attendees: Rebecca Steeves, Jess Halm, David Peeler, Jane Kellogg, Richard Osborne

Minutes for the last meeting were reviewed. Names of attendees were corrected but otherwise the notes were acceptable. A motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made and seconded. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

The meeting with George Wright was discussed. The various powerline plans were reviewed with reference to previous route maps. It was noted that 3 transmission companies (Eversource, TDI-New England, National Grid) have officially forwarded their plans to Massachusetts Clean Energy Request for consideration. These are routed through various routes and will all have some effect on the environment. The Commission felt that it could not make further recommendations or comments without further study. David Peeler will research the details of the plans submitted. Richard Osborne will seek comments from Tom Wagner the Forest Director for the White Mountain National Forest.

The impending retirement of Tom Wagner was also discussed. There are two planned events marking his retirement. On August 18 a meet and greet at AMC Highland Center and an invitational event at Rocky Wold Deep Haven on Sept 9.

Nature nights is now into its fourth week with good attendance seen at the initial event. There are 2 more events scheduled. Rosalind Lowen was contacted about giving a session but we do not know if that was verified.

The Commission's role in the coming Campton 250th was discussed. Richard reviewed his preliminary findings as to how Pattee Park could best be used for the final event on September 30, 2007. The group discussed initial mowing to better see the ground followed by marking the various areas for tents, platforms, parking and entrance/exit routes. There is the possibility of many classic cars coming to the event as an added attraction so where to situate them will also need to be determined. The group decided that we will hold our next meeting, 9/6/17, will be held at the park at 6 PM.

The controlled burn of the old Blanchard house is now scheduled the evening of 8/10/17. We will need to arrange for removal of the residue. Jess Halm is working on contacting possible contractors.

The group next discussed the ongoing plans for the state park on the Campton side of Livermore falls. The Holderness side has been very successful this summer with 186 people visiting on one day that was counted. The progress on the Campton side has slowed due to a needed revision of construction for safety measures. Purchase of small areas of private land

adjacent to the park for parking are still in negotiation. The production of signage for the park has already been assigned. Ben Wilson of the State Parks remains the primary contact for questions or concerns. Best guess is that work will begin in August –September timeframe. It was suggested by several members that local snowmobile clubs might be interested in assisting with signage or other works. Dean Johnston is the leader of the Campton club and will be contacted.

Rebecca reported on her attendance at the Plymouth Area Ecotourism meeting. Multiple groups such as PSU, Chamber of Commerce, local farmers (Josh Trout), DRED, NH Heal were in attendance. Since this was a new group meeting many ideas and agendas were discussed but no specific plans were made. Ideas included local guidebooks for trails, Lyme disease awareness teaching, advertising of Rumney Rocks.

The article for Conservation Matters is written and will be forwarded to the publisher by Jess.

Jane reviewed with the group the contacts she has had with a family who is considering placing their property in some form of conservation. The family has researched this in some detail but has not reached a conclusion. Jane and Jess have visited the area and feel that there are significant conservation possibilities (long stream fronts, river drainage) but feel more information is needed. There is another adjacent lot that borders both this area and the White Mountain National Forest. Perhaps the owner of that lot would be interested in joining in any new plan. The group felt Jane should follow-up with the land owners and study the property for possible interventions.

The group then discussed an idea put forward by Rebecca to establish a Commission Facebook page. The advantages were possibly wider audience for our messages and information, the ability to allow outside individuals or groups to comment or recommend additional ideas. The group consensus was that this was a useful idea but would require more preparation and some expert advice to avoid taking on too burdensome a task. Rebecca and Jess will research this idea further.

The mail to the Commission was reviewed. This included the official resignation of Tammy Wooster from the Commission due to her move to Plymouth. Plans for a farewell party were discussed.

Jane moved to close the meeting at this point. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The next meeting was set for September 6 2017 at 6PM at Pattee Park