

Campton Conservation Commission

Minutes for meeting on September 6, 2017

Attendees: Jane Kellogg; Rebecca Steeves; Shannon Garnsey; Jessica Halm; David Peeler; Richard Osborne; Scott Pulsifer

Meeting was called to order by Shannon Garnsey at 7:06 pm. The agenda for the meeting was agreed upon. The prior minutes had been approved on line last month. The members unanimously confirmed their approval.

1. Scott Pulsifer requested to speak to the commission about a property of which he is the Trustee (Pulsifer Real Estate 1982). He presented a map of the area outlining a narrow strip of land on the west bank of the Mad River running along the Route 49 from Pulsifer Road for about 1500 feet. The western border of the land is Route 49. Mr. Pulsifer wants to donate the land to the town. It is unusable as a commercial or residential site due to its location. The commissioners explained to Mr. Pulsifer that the town does not normally accept land due to costs but that there are several avenues he could explore for the land such as a land conservancy or offering it to the state to increase the right of way for road widening. We told him we would be glad to help present this offer to the Board of Selectman and research other possible organizations that might want to acquire this land. He said he agreed with this plan.
2. 250th anniversary festival at Pattee Park.
Richard Osborne presented the ongoing plans of the 250TH Committee for the use of the field. The number of vendors is at least 30 and may grow to 40. There will be pony rides and a wagon ride, a dance/band pavilion, classic cars will be displayed and there will be a barbecue. The number and size of the tents is not known yet. At the 250th committee meeting there were only rough sketches of where the parking, pavilions, band, classic cars and rides would be placed. At that meeting it was decided that Michelle Bilodeau, Richard Osborne and Ron Reynolds will meet at 9 AM on Sept 19 to decide on a final plan. There is concern that the mowing of the park will not be completed soon enough to provide an unobstructed surface for the tents and pavilions at the 250th committee and the Conservation Committee. Richard Osborne will contact the mower to see if he can move up the date. The Commission also agreed to employ a construction company to fill in the large pit in the center of the field and level out the entrance for vehicles along Blair Road
3. The Commission discussed the latest news about Northern Pass. The White Mountain National Forest plan using underground conduit was approved by the WMNF study group. The report felt there would be significant damage to the area but that the benefits of the project outweighed the mostly temporary disruptions.
4. The Commission then discussed the ongoing tragedy resulting from continued jumping at Livermore falls. There has even been a "slack line" for high wire walking over the

river. It was not known if permission was given to do this. It was noted by the committee that Livermore is now presented on the web as being an excellent jumping site. The Commission considered the suggestion the creation of a sign listing the number and ages of the many people who have died making that jump. On average, one person dies every year. Perhaps this sign would be a deterrent to those who see this record.

5. The conservation work on the Beebe River was next discussed. It seems to be proceeding rapidly but there have been no recent visits there. It has been somewhat disruptive to mountain bikers. We will plan visits to the site.
6. Two properties whose owners have contacted the Commission concerning advice were discussed.

The first concerned a pond being dug on the property above a wetlands area. The state does have information/recommendations/restrictions on dug ponds but the area involved does not appear to present any problems. We will try to contact the owners to arrange a site visit. We can also direct them to the proper state offices with questions

The second property is a fairly large parcel of mostly wooded land that is owned by family where the parents have passed away and the grown children are trying to decide how to handle the maintenance of the land. Jane Kellogg has spoken to the leader of the family and has presented several options including Conservancy Fund assistance. The woman felt she needed to go back to discuss this further as there are implications/restrictions/requirements on approaches such as nature conservancy. We believe the woman will contact us when their plan is more developed.

Dave then presented his research on what are the pros and cons of putting property into a land trust. There are often signs of risk of legal battles and misunderstands when there are many individuals involved; if the property is too hard to reach to monitor well; if there are dangerous materials remaining on the property; if there are wildlife concerns that would be difficult to manage. The group discussed the information and thanked David for his research.

7. The Commission budget was reviewed and the costs of mowing and construction work on Pattee Park, Nature Nights, media contact, 250th celebration, education programs will all fit into the present budget. An Invoice of the construction company to make repairs to Pattee Park was reviewed and appeared reasonable to all the Commissioners. The members reviewed possible educational events for the fall including NH Association

Conservancy Commissions yearly course. It was felt that new members would profit most from this event. In addition the Grafton County Conservation District has a course in Wildlife Habitat Management on September 29 at Orford.

Yearly roadside cleanup program was discussed and it was decided to combine cleanup after the Sept 30 festival at Pattee Park with a roadside cleanup in that area. We will do the first cleanup on October 1 at 8 AM and the second session as roadside cleanup October 8 at 8 AM.

8. The mail was opened and reviewed.

9. The chair for the next meeting on October 4 at 8 PM will be Jessica. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM

Submitted by Richard Osborne