

Campton Conservation Commission February 8, 2018 Meeting minutes

Members present: Jane Kellogg, David Peeler, Jess Halm, Rebecca Steeves, Dick Osborne
Guest: Sarah Cote (Environmental Wetlands Apprentice)

Jane Kellogg called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm

The minutes of the January 3, 2018 meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously.

The need to send signed copies to the Town Clerk and electronic copies to the Town Administrator was restated. Dick will be responsible for doing this. It was also discussed that our email does not get regularly checked and we should all try to do that frequently. Jess will send the correct email address to all the Commissioners after talking with the Town Administrator to update any updates on our website. Rebecca will revisit the social page and Facebook page to see if they need to be updated.

Important upcoming activities including the town Budget Review on 2/12/18 at 6:30; the Town Election, March 12 followed on March 13 by the Town Meeting. Our yearly report and budget have been reviewed and completed and sent to the Selectmen. Our term year limits were included on the Town report. We will discuss at March town meeting if we want to set up a Conservation display as it is a good opportunity to remind townspeople of our purpose and availability and to tell them of the nature centers at Blair Woodland .

The 6th annual Bog walk took place of January 28. With recent severe cold the number of participants was down but 13 hardy people did attend. Special findings included signs of otter activity, a honey bee nest and wood duck nests. The nests are maintained by the state but members thought we could undertake some rehab if the state was unlikely to refurbish them in the near future. Jess will contact Fish and Game to see if the rehab will happen this spring. Of note, The Commission was asked by Carl Kelly who is property manager for one of the houses on the Bog Pond, if we had been on the owner's property at night. We assured him the walk took only 2 hours in the early afternoon.

We also discussed ways in which we could, in the future, send out a rain date if the scheduled Bog Walk date has severe inclement weather. We could put out a number to call or publish the new date on our Facebook page were the two suggestions.

We would all like to thank Lea Stewart for her continued generous support of the Bog Walk despite bad weather. A thank you note will be sent to her.

The monthly publication of Conservation Matters will be ours to write next on May 10th this year.

The next meeting of Livermore Falls group with participation by PRLAC, Friends of the Pemi, New Hampshire Parks and Rec will be on February 12 at noon. Jane and Dick will attend. Topics we should bring up included reducing the entry charge for locals to increase attendance.

The Site Evaluation Committee unanimously voted not to approve the Northern Pass project last week. The Committee stated that the SEC felt that the proposal did not meet all conditions required and therefore unanimously denied the permission for the project. The SEC pointed out that some towns had passed ordinances not allowing high tension wires through their towns and they felt the company did not have orderly management and, as a result, some towns would suffer significant effects on their local economy. The company will have 30 days to appeal the commission's findings,

Jane met with the family who recently bought property in a rural area of the town who asked for some guidance in reference to putting in a pond on their property. No specific plans have been made and not all the owners have been contacted. Jane assured them the Commission would be glad to discuss this with them when a specific plan was proposed.

The recruitment of two Campton children for attendance at the Barry Conservation Camp continues through Campton Elementary School. Eligible children have been notified and in March the interested children will be interviewed.

The annual Nature Night educational event jointly sponsored by The Rey Center and the Campton CC has been organized. There will be 6 evening events run by experienced speakers. The CCC has donated \$100 toward the events.

Educational opportunities for Commissioners were discussed. These included an Event called Your Land, Your Legacy at Concord Conservation Center on 2/27/18 at 5:30 to 8 PM. It is \$25 per member. There are also workshops at the Cooperative Extension and the Grafton County Conservation Committee available.

Future conservation planning for the Commission will be a future topic for meetings. We will be asking help from Nick Cotes. We will discuss Conservation easements on March 7.

Our next meeting will be March 7, 2018. Rebecca Steeves will chair the meeting.

Richard Osborne
Scribe