

**Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 4, 2018**

Members Present: Jessica Halm, Jane Kellogg, Dave Peeler, Rebecca Steeves

Visitors Present: Myrtle Lewis, Sky Bartlett: CC members from Thornton (They are re-starting a CC in Thornton and attended to see what we are doing as a commission, and to create connection between the 2 communities who share much already)

Rebecca called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

1. Feb. 8 minutes: A final draft was not available, so a motion, second and vote was taken. Will discuss acceptance and approval at the next meeting. Note: March meeting was canceled due to weather.

2. Updates:

a. Northern Pass: Jess gave a brief update of the final SEC sessions attended by Jane and herself, the final report recently of the SEC which denied the application, and other reports of Massachusetts deciding not to purchase power from Eversource.

b. Livermore Falls: Jane gave a report for summer planning under way for the falls area. More volunteer help is requested by the state parks personnel on the Holderness side, on busy weekend days during July and August. Area CCs are asked to help. West side developments are for purchase of additional land by the state for improved parking (vote for approval going to Governor and Council on May 2), and other work on the site to begin shortly thereafter. Some tree removal, improved access to the site, historical signage are all in the plans.

c. Conservation Matters column in The Record Enterprise. Jess continues to manage this rotating, monthly article submitted by area Conservation Commissions and other organizations interested in natural resources. May will be Campton's turn again. Dave declined an earlier offer to write about wood duck boxes. Jess plans to ask a local individual who follows spring vernal pool activity for an article.

d. Properties - Land Management: 2018 Plans for Blair Woodland Natural Area and Pattee Conservation Park:

PCP: This is an off-year for field mowing. It was mowed several times last year in preparation for the 250 Celebration held in the field. With the old Blanchard House now gone (controlled burn in 2017), we will be keeping an eye on the nearby large, old oak to see if it was damaged by the fire. Additionally: a PCP neighbor had noted an old well in the field. We need to assess its safety, whether to fill in, or cover in anticipation of potential as a viable well. Discussion was had on who might help us with this assessment. The wooded trails on the property also need a little chain saw attention.

BWNA: The first bridge needs its handrail replaced. Some minor trail clearing continues to be needed from time to time. The kiosk display materials have been there for some time. Perhaps a re-do? Perhaps, also, a re-printing of the trail guide with needed changes.

e. Nature Nights: The Rey Center is again interested in partnering with us on a few of the summer Nature Nights. Jess will bring more information to the next meeting so we can begin the process of planning and funding the programs. Dave brought up the programs given at Quincy Bog and whether they could be somehow combined or coordinated. But, since our programs are designed for young families, and Quincy Bog's are generally for an adult audience, it was felt that each program stands on its own and appeals to a unique population.

f. Conservation Planning: this continues to be a topic on our agendas and comes as a next step after completion of our Natural Resources Inventory. Work sessions may be necessary in order to get work done on this. Workshops offered at conservation conferences can have helpful materials. Some CCC members have attended such sessions and will dig out ideas for future work on this.

3. Barry Camp update: One boy and one girl from Campton have received scholarships from the town's Conservation Fund to attend Barry Camp this summer. Rebecca had coordinated with Katie Scambio at CES who reached out to eligible families. Shannon, Jane and Jess met individually with each applicant to make the choices. For those who did not receive a scholarship, Shannon wrote them each a wonderful letter and provided materials about other similar opportunities they may take advantage of locally. At next month's meeting we would hope to have an invoice so we can approve payment from the Conservation Fund to the Barry Camp for \$500 for each student.

4. NH Wetlands Rules: Rebecca had noted an article about proposed changes to the NH Wetlands rules and timing for public comments. There was discussion about groups to reach out to in order to find out more about the changes and their pros and cons. Guest to the meeting, Myrtle Lewis, volunteered to look into this.

5. USFS proposals: Rebecca had attended a meeting at the WMNF headquarters regarding several proposals being made within the WMNF. Some are within the Campton/Thornton areas. We had also received a mailing containing materials on the changes, request for comments, etc. We took no specific action, but plan to review further.

6. Spring road litter clean-up. Saturday, April 21 8:00-10. Meet at Pattee Conservation Park. Visitor, Myrtle Lewis, is also involved in roadway litter clean-up; and volunteered to be the one to contact the Thornton DOT shed for bags and safety vests. Jane will notify a resident along the road section who often helps.

7. Site visit to Beech Hill proposed pond site with property owner. Planned for Sat, April 14. Time of 3:30 PM was selected. Jane will let the property owner know.

8. Church group visit to Leah Gray: Sunday, April 15. Members from the Campton Congregational Church are planning to visit Leah Gray for a lunch gathering, and to thank her for her deeding her old home on Rt 3 to the church. Jane and Jess plan to attend. Others are invited as well. If interested, should be in contact with Mary Durgin or Scott Pulsifer.

9. Communication:

a. Facebook: discussion about ideas to increase spring-related postings.

b. Mail: Nice thank you card from the 250 Committee. WMNF mailing re #5 above, various workshop opportunities, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 2 @ 7 PM. Shannon will Chair.