

Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Members present: Jess Halm, Jane Kellogg, Rebecca Steeves, Dan Boynton, Shannon Garnsey

Others present: Rich Tyler, Tom Howard

Rebecca called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Jane taking notes.

1. April minutes: Moved by Jess, Seconded by Dan. All voted to approve.
2. Roadside clean-up debrief: Sunday, April 28th's litter pickup was attended by 4 CC members, and 4 members of Campton Forward. About 15 blue bags were gathered along the Rt 175 section. Blair Rd from 175 past the cemetery had been cleaned by other unknown people a few days earlier. Shannon plans to clean the Blair Rd section from Covered Bridge to Bog Rd soon.
3. Conservation project: Tom Howard of NH Conservation Real Estate, Moultonborough, NH had requested to attend the meeting to discuss a potential conservation effort in town. Jane had prepared maps for reference showing the tax parcels, roads, water resources in the area. Tom began by saying he was attending the meeting to gather information on behalf of the family. He gave the commissioners information about his role as sole contact person for the family, and their desire for conservation of the undeveloped 152 acres on West Branch Brook which has been considered by them for several years. They are looking for a combination of partners to give logistical and financial support for the project. The town's Conservation Fund, grants from LCHIP, Grummond Fund and others were discussed as potential financial resources for land purchase, conservation easement work, and other necessary costs associated with such a project. There was also discussion about various ownership and easement holder scenarios, grant possibilities; and the pros and cons of each.

The project potential was met with strong enthusiasm and interest on behalf of the commission. The property holds high wildlife and natural resource values as outlined in the Natural Resources Inventory. A popular snowmobile trail connecting West Campton to the White Mountain National Forest has also gone through the property for many years. These recreational and natural resources and the strong potential for partnering with other land protection partners to match the family's strong conservation ethic is just the sort of project the commissioners stated they have looked to support.

An abutting property of 89 acres, which would connect the 152 acres with the WMNF, was mentioned as another valuable parcel to create connectivity for wildlife and natural resources along West Branch Brook. Tom indicated knowledge of the owners and there was conversation about potential to bring this parcel into the project.

Tom plans to take what was gleaned from the meeting to various potential partners and will remain in touch with the commission through Jane.

4. Updates

a. Barry Camp: Shannon reported some difficulty families of the 2 students had in registering on line. She assisted and all seems in order now.

b. BWNA Summer programming: Shannon will be in touch with Scout leaders to see if they request any programming to assist scouts with badges and go from there to plan programs.

Rebecca had seen a flier for a scavenger hunt at a natural area. She suggested that one could be created for BWNA and placed in the mailbox for families who visit. All liked the idea.

5. Incoming mail:

DES wetland permits: One letter requesting more information on the Deer Run dam project. One wetland permit copy for 349 Owl Street project at Campton Mills to fix a road drainage problem.

WMNF notice of trails work planned in the Smarts Brook area (Thornton)

Notice for conference by the NH Lakes Association on May 30-31.

Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 9:05

Next meeting: June 5. Shannon to Chair.