

Campton Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Meeting held over Zoom

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

Rebecca called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Jane taking notes. Meeting also recorded on Zoom.

1. June minutes: Jane moved to approve, Jess seconded. Roll call: all voted to accept.

2. West Branch Brook Forest project:

a. Parcel 3-1-1: A counter offer had been received from Bob Berti, representing owner Green Acre Woodlands, outlining option 1 asking price of \$150,000 for the entire parcel of 82.86 acres. A survey map was also included with the letter, showing a potential boundary line adjustment in the event that abutter, Mark Johnson, purchases an approximate 24.85 acres. This option 2 asking price is \$110,000 for the remaining 58.01 acres.

There was discussion about timelines, need for appraisal, environmental studies to be done, and map topographic lines showing possible impact to the West Branch Brook watershed if the boundary was made where sketched in on the map. Dan moved, Jess seconded "to make an offer through a new Purchase and Sales Agreement as outlined in the counter offer with a deadline of August 14 for signing, with contingencies for appraisal and receipt of grants as before." Jane said she would reach out to B Berti for an update to him. Dan and/or Jane would get attorney Ray working on the new P&S. Rebecca took a poll vote. All voted in the affirmative.

b. LCHIP grant: All grant materials were submitted on June 22, about 5 days earlier than the deadline. Notification will come soon as to a site visit by about 2-3 people on the evaluation committee. It is requested there be 1 representative from the town if possible. In normal times, apparently, there would be a larger group allowed. Jane and Jess have discussed attending, or perhaps another person very knowledgeable about the property. It was decided to see what date they assign for our site visit and then see availability of Jane or Jess attending.

c. ARM grant: We have received notice our pre application was accepted along with one other from the Pemi-Winnepesaukee area for this round of grants going after about \$250,000. There were 4 recommendations to be sure to make clear in our full application. The other applicant is NH Fish and Game with Trout Unlimited for a bridge and culvert restoration project in the Beebe River watershed in Campton. Jane had spoken with Ben Nugent of NHF&G about their project. It's possible they will adjust their budget so both projects could be fully funded.

Jane and Jess had a brainstorming session on June 24 to begin on the application work. Our hiring of Rick Van de Poll for environmental assessments required for this application will help a lot on the technical aspects of this application. Jane will also reach out to Lori Sommer (NHDES) with our questions about the application, process, etc.

d. Moose plate grant: Carolyn has begun this work for us. Expect drafts later.

e. Donations: Reviewed total to date of just over \$26,000. One anonymous donation of \$1000 had come in recently. Outreach from Trout Unlimited was unsuccessful, but we did learn of native trout fish studies on-going in the West Branch Brook which are promising. Outreach for a donation from a local bank is unknown at this time.

3. Blair State Forest: Jane had attended a walk conducted by NH Division of Forests and Lands on June 13. Forester Bob Hardy showed a map outlining the skidder roads, log yards and areas to be harvested of white pine and some oak. There will be more marking of trees prior to bringing potential loggers to the property in July. They have 2 weeks to submit bids, and then highest bidder is chosen. The harvest will likely be in September, with wide buffers left along Blair Road and NH Rt 175.

4. White Mountain Trail Collaborative: Dan has been communicating with Melony Luce about their \$500,000 grants for trail work on many sorts of trail projects. Our WBBF project, or trail need at BWNA or PCP fall in the Pemi Valley Region. They will be working on project here in 2022, but application needs to be made by November 2020. M Luce is available to meet with us about submitting for projects. Dan will set this up. They also have a survey on line. Rebecca will post it on our FB page. All were encouraged to fill out the survey.

5. UNH Cooperative Extension interview: we had received an email inviting us to be included in gathering of information from communities about how they have responded to Covid-19. There was discussion that this is more in the Select Board's area. Dan will take it forward to them.

6. Mail/AOB:

Sue Ellen Spinner is interested in discussing future projects in town around agricultural themes. There was positive response to the idea.

Jane asked about the need to hold an additional public hearing on purchase of parcel 3-1-1. After signing of P&S and appraisal, there would need to be a hearing.

Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Next meeting: Aug. 5. Shannon to Chair. Location: Town Office Meeting Room or Jane's porch.