

CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April is our Annual "Lands Management Meeting"

April 7, 2021 @ 7 PM via Zoom

Meeting Chair: Jane Kellogg. Minutes: Rebecca Steeves. To Do List: Shannon Garnsey. Jane @7:03pm. Members present: Jim Butler, Jess Halm, Richard Osborne, Dan Boynton. Members of the public: Ron Goggans, Mark Runquist, Jerry Sovolewski (member of Thornton CC), Mary O'Brien.

General Agenda for Lands Management:

Introductions: CCC and others present

1. Pattee Conservation Park(PCP): (approx 20 minutes)

Review general history and management of property so far.

Jane - 11+ acres were set aside in 2008 as a purchase by the town for \$125,000, one year later the house lot was sold, with a later property line adjustment to resolve property line issues with the parcel with the house. There is a Liberty Tree on the property taken care of in collaboration with Campton Garden Club; there are short trails in the adjacent forest. There was an old, abandoned house on the property, known as the Blanchard House, along Rt. 175; it was a burn training exercise for the CTFD. The town used the field for the 250th celebration in 2017, and the karate club in town has used the field as a gathering place for their fall 5K fundraiser. The county forester has visited a couple of times; he discussed the resource, indicating that controlled burns could enhance the growth of the low blueberry bushes, as well as provided information about timber harvesting in the state forest next door and thoughts about managing the small forest on PCP.

Jess shared that the controlled burn would be a great opportunity to work with CTFD, maybe in the fall; Dan made a motion to propose this to CTFD, Jess seconded. A burn would replace mowing for the year, and doing it before the Veteran's Day 5K might be good. Some discussion about the timing of these events. Motion passed.

Jane thought the boundaries should be walked sometime this year; may be a good idea to re-establish the property lines to us and neighbors. This could be scheduled on the same day as the spring road clean-up. Terry

Lawson in the yellow house had a tree from the forest come down on his vacant bee hive, we need to address. We should look into bringing a forester to assess the property (Ian Halm, county forester, local student...?); goal to come up with a plan within the next year, to discuss and adopt at Lands Management meeting in April 2022..

Mary O'Brien joined the meeting, so Jane asked her about the Liberty Tree, since she is a member of the Campton Garden Club. Dan asked about the status of the fence around the tree - current condition? Does the tree still need it there? Mary will pass this along to Carol Lenahan and the CGC.

Jane brought up the quote for a new sign at PCP; members discussed the wording for the sign (what to include or not, and carry in/carry out) that Jim had been working on. Jess mentioned that a piece of the split rail fence has fallen down, Dan will check it tomorrow. It was decided that Jim would bring this to us again at the May meeting for decisions.

2. Blair Woodland Natural Area: (approx 15 minutes)

Review general history and management of property so far.

Jane - in 2002, Leah Gray gave 17 acres to the town as a gift with deed restrictions; CCC managing it as a natural area, received a Moose Plate grant to put in parking lot; 2012-14 the Rey Center gave family programs there in summer, commissioners did it for a year or 2 later.

Shannon shared that a group of scouts may be interested in helping to fix a bridge, and clear the trails - nothing definite yet but a couple of scouts will bring it to the rest of the troop for their spring "to do" list. They may need some help with funds since they haven't been able to fundraise for over a year. Dan mentioned that the Beckett Academy may be able to help with some of the small signs for the nature trail. Shannon said she could coordinate with the scouts and maybe other local youth groups.

Mary Durgin (town treasurer for 40+ years) has a nephew who likes to go to BWNA with his dog and may be willing to plow the parking lot in winter. Jane called him a couple of days ago and has not heard back. If he does respond, we should meet with him to look at the space.

Jane asked if there is any interest in summer programming but no discussion.

3. West Branch Brook Forest(pending): (approx 10 minutes) - the town may be the proud owner as of late June-early July!! In the next year, the commission will put together a stewardship/management plan for the property.

Agenda for Other Business: beginning about 8:00

4. March Minutes: Review & Approve - Jess moved to accept, Dan seconded. Approved.

5. West Branch Brook Project: Updates, assignments -NH DES grant funding(ARM Fund)contract agreement was passed by Governor & Council on March 24; Jim, Jess and Jane are working on the land easement with PBLT; they are meeting weekly to work on the document and are working with a subcommittee of PBLT monthly to finalize easement language. It will be ready to share with all involved parties soon. There is also a management/stewardship plan for the property; it's required by DES to receive the grant; the template is in a Google folder with information entered by Jane and Ron (maps). There are specific sections for the collective commission to work on - goals for, uses of the property, etc. Much of the information will be similar to the concepts of the easement. The goal would be to have this document done by the middle of May, or at least a good draft. Members will split the sections - Dan & Shannon will take VII, Shannon & Dick - will take V, Jim & Rebecca - Section VI; will work on the sections and can send out email to members to review. Jane will work on section IV, taking much information from Rick Van de Poll's ecological report.

6. Town Meeting: May 12: CCC table for outreach? -Dick commented that without some sort of outreach, many residents would be unaware. What information do we want to get out? Could Ron make a map of WBBF with info? Jane will tweak the map and info that was sent out to donors; flyers should have FB page, website, etc. Jane will get something together before the next meeting to send around.

7. AOB/FYI: Schedule Spring road clean up - scheduled for Sunday, April 18 - meet at PCP at 8:30am. Rebecca will post on FB and Ron will pass along to Campton Forward; members will do a boundary walk afterward or at the same time, if there are enough volunteers to do the road clean-up.

Planning Board inquiry - about the large Dearborn property where the timber harvesting took place off Page Road and Winterbrook Road ; a possible mention of a sizable development; should follow the PB minutes or attend meetings.

May 5 cons. funding webinar from Janice Mulhern, in the morning, by LCHIP and Moose Plate folks and others to talk about funding opportunities for conservation. Jess asked if we were going to submit another application for LCHIP, which can be withdrawn at any time if things change. Jane looked up the details of an Intent to Apply to be submitted in May. Last year's deadline was May 15. Jess would hate to lose an opportunity to acquire the adjacent land. Jane will attend the webinar and plan to get the 1 page ITA together. She will also check in with Boisvert/Norman for their present intentions.

8. Correspondence: NHACC membership - usually do after town meeting so we will wait until budget is voted on, letter re: road conditions just FYI for the commission, NH Div of Forests and Lands: timber harvest @ Livermore SF - next winter along Rt. 175; also a correspondence sent to the commission regarding cell towers being proposed on

Cone Mountain; a resident Bill Copeland interested in joining the commission, Jess responded by inviting him to a monthly meeting.

Adjourned at 9:05pm.

Next meeting: May 5 @ 7 PM. Jess to Chair (Can we begin meeting in person?)