

Town of Farmington  
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 11, 2018

**Commission Members Present:**

Dave Connolly, Chairman  
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman  
Patience Taylor  
Laura Bogardus, Secretary  
Bill Fisher  
Tom Sorensen (6:20 p.m.)

**Commission Members Absent:**

Charlie King, Selectmen's Rep., excused  
Richard Ballou, excused

**Others Present:**

Donna Ellis  
Shaun Shavor, Tracy Shavor, Brianna  
Shavor, Bruce Shavor

**1). Call to Order:**

Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**2). Pledge of Allegiance:**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3). Public Comment:** None.

**4). Barry Camp Presentation:**

Eleven year old Shaun Shavor told the commission that he should be chosen to attend camp for 1 week because of his love of nature and the opportunity to learn new skills. He said people should conserve nature because we need nature to live and less animals mean less food and less trees mean less oxygen and every animal needs oxygen besides fish.

Mr. Connolly said the commission has been listening to students from the Henry Wilson School for 4 or 5 years and Mr. Shavor's presentation is probably the best presentation he has heard yet. He asked if Mr. Shavor knew anything about Barry 4H Camp.

Mr. Shavor said he knew that it is located in Berlin, NH and that they conserve nature.

Mr. Connolly said the camp gives young people the opportunity to be outdoors and to learn about outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, fishing and building a fire.

Ms. Bogardus recalled that last year's camper went on an overnight camp out at the camp.

Ms. Taylor asked if Mr. Shavor had ever been to camp before.

Mr. Shavor said he had gone camping with family and friends once before where he learned "basic fire stuff" and hiked in the woods.

Mr. Fisher noted that Mr. Shavor said he liked to shoot BB guns and asked if he shoots it toward any houses as his son once did filling the side of his house with holes.

Mr. Shavor said he did not shoot his BB gun toward any houses.

Mr. Fisher then asked if he practiced his camping skills.

Mr. Shavor said he did not have the right equipment to practice camping.

Mr. Fisher said the library plans to hold a demonstration on how to make a pocket fishing kit and suggested Mr. Shavor may want to attend.

Mr. Orvis asked which week Mr. Shavor would like to attend camp.

Mr. Connolly said he would attend the North Country Adventure week (July 29-August 3) which encompasses all of the other weeks' features together.

Ms. Bogardus said she was impressed with Mr. Shavor's composure and his desire to conserve nature and act in a responsible manner.

**Motion:** (Bogardus, second Taylor) to send Shaun Shavor to the Barry Camp passed 5-0.

Mr. Connolly asked Mr. Shavor to return to the commission after the camp week is over and tell them "how it went".

**Recess:** Mr. Connolly called a brief recess to discuss the next steps with the Shavor family at 6:15 p. m. The meeting reconvened at 6:20 p.m.

#### **5). Review of Minutes:**

December 13, 2017- No errors or omissions

**Motion:** (Bogardus, second Sorensen) to accept the minutes as written passed 5-0-1 (Orvis abstained).

#### **6). Old Business:**

**A). Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Forum: "NH Bugs- The Big 3" Jan. 24, 2018 at 6 p.m. at the Public Safety Building**

Final Prep- Ms. Bogardus asked about refreshments for the forum.

Mr. Connolly said a coffee pot and coffee will be available for use at the building. The commission will provide a case of water.

Mr. Connolly said he will ask Honey Dew Donuts if they would be willing to donate some donuts and paper cups for the forum.

Ms. Taylor said the Dispatcher at the Public Safety Building posted the event on the Police Dept. Face book page.

Mr. Connolly suggested the printed flyers for the forum be used to inform area logging companies, tree companies, foresters and fire wood suppliers within a 50 mile radius about the forum by mail.

Mr. Connolly said a notice for the forum is posted on the Town website and on the Cable TV Channel 26 calendar.

Members planned to meet at the building at 5:30 p.m. for set up.

Ms. Bogardus will confirm the plans with the speaker for the evening.

Mr. Connolly expressed his thanks to the Police and Fire Depts. for the use of the conference room at the building.

**B).School Recycling-** Mr. Fisher said he spoke with School Board member Linda McElhinney who said the matter is still under discussion. The policy has gone through the board and is awaiting final approval. Discussions are under way with the school district's disposal company he said.

**C).McCarthy Trail- Mural Update-** Mr. Sorensen said the FHS Art Teacher contacted him by e-mail and said the students are having a hard time deciding what buildings were important to the town in the past that should be included in the mural on the water tower at the trail. She asked for some suggestions from the commission. She also asked if the trail is passable by snow shoes so that measurements of mural area can be taken.

Mr. Sorensen said he told her to contact the Historical Society and get some information and possibly photos of past important buildings and then meet with the Art teacher and see what sketches the class has provided.

Mr. Connolly said the trail is snow shoe accessible and that Stan Freeda and Kyle Leach are in charge at the Historical Society. He said the Art teacher received the history purchased from the Historical Society book sent by Ms. Taylor and the book was forwarded to the Social Studies teacher for more input.

He asked the commission for some ideas as to what buildings they would like to see included on the mural. Suggestions included the Town Hall, Municipal Office Building, the Congregational Church, Goodwin Library, the Little Red Schoolhouse, the old train station, natural features(flume, Town Forest), the new Public Safety Building, prominent residences (Thayer Mansion), and important people from the town's history.

Mr. Connolly suggested inviting the Art teacher to come to the March Con Com meeting and discuss plans for the mural. He added that would also give him time to check with the DPW to make sure the opening in floor at the tower has been secured and the old machinery has been blocked off.

Mr. Sorensen said he would contact the teacher and ask her to attend the March meeting.

**D).McCarthy Trail- Cutouts Update-** Mr. Connolly said he spoke with Jim Horgan about the character cutouts being constructed by a Home Depot employee for stations along the trail. He reported they are still being worked on and are coming out well.

## **7). New Business:**

**A). NHACC Annual Survey Discussion-** Mr. Connolly said he received the NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions yearly survey that is sent to find out what commissions are doing so that the association may better serve the commissions. The questions are as follows:

1). What are the top 2 most important goals for this commission?

Management of the current conservation areas (2,500+ acres) and public educational outreach

2). How have you been successful in meeting your goals?

By being public friendly and by utilizing community and other resources

3).How can the NHACC help us reach out goals?

Create guest speakers/forum pool

4). What are the principal means or activities by which your Con Com contributes to their town?

Sponsor Spring and Fall Cleanups, hold public forums, provide outdoor recreation

5). Do other Town boards seek the guidance of the Con Com in natural resource protection?

Only when mandated by ordinance

6). Does your commission have a voice in issues related to natural resource inventories, mapping, conservation easements, shoreline protection, steep slopes, wetlands, logging permits and fund raising? Please let us know where you think you have the most positive effect.

Conservation easements

7). Are you proud of something you have done in the last few years that you would be willing to share on the resource page of our website members' section in our e-news? If yes, please let us know what project you are working on and how it has been successful.

Establishing and maintaining public hiking trails and recreational areas

8). Do you have any specific suggestions for topics, resources for our website, nhacc.org?

No answer

9). Which additional topics would you like to see covered in the newsletter?

More training opportunities in the Strafford County area,

10). NHACC regularly monitors legislation related to conservation on the state level and provides legislative updates for you. Is this activity helpful to you?

Yes

11). What legislative or state priorities would you like us to focus on?

More state level funding for ordinance enforcement

12). What are you struggling with that you'd like us to help with?

Educational resources

13). What topics would you like the NHACC to provide for more regional training?

Conservation commission's duties and responsibilities explained in layman's terms to attract more public participation

**B). French Bridge-** Mr. Connolly said that a frequent user of the French property trail told him that the bridge located near the snow mobile bridge has become dislodged. He said that when all of the bridges for the trail were installed all of them had 2 support cables except for this bridge because the attachment point is 30 feet away. Barry Keith investigated the bridge site and found the one cable there is holding the bridge there but it is slightly dislodged. Mr. Keith suggested once there is less snow pack in the area the bridge can be moved back into place. It will probably take 4 people to move it because of the weight of the bridge he said.

Mr. Connolly said that in the mean time, he will create a poster and put it in the kiosk warning users that the bridge is askew and to be careful using it.

**Recess:** Chairman Connolly called for a 5 minute recess to allow the members to finish

providing their contact information to NHACC at 7:21 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:26 p.m.

**C). 2018 Commission Goals:**

Mr. Connolly asked the members for ideas for accomplishments and goals for 2018.

Mr. Fisher said he would like to see more public participation in the spring and fall clean ups and suggested more publicity may bring in more volunteers.

Mr. Connolly said he would like to see the McCarty trail completed this year.

Ms. Bogardus said she would like to see more involvement with the schools in town. She added she would like to see another high school student join the commission as a student member.

Mr. Orvis said he would like the commission to host more forums at the rate of 1 forum every 2 months if possible.

Mr. Connolly asked the members to return to the February meeting with 3 topics for future forums.

Mr. Connolly then asked the members thoughts about publishing a commission newsletter which could also be posted on the town website. He said the commission also has a Face book page where information could be posted.

Ms. Bogardus asked if there is enough information to fill a monthly newsletter.

Mr. Orvis suggested they start out as a bi-monthly publication as a trial run or do it on an irregular basis and publish a newsletter when there is information to be shared.

Mr. Fisher said they could repost information from other environmental agencies and groups as a service to the public.

Mr. Orvis said one problem with publishing a newsletter is finding an editor to edit it and put it all together.

Mr. Connolly suggested Ms. Bogardus be added as an administrator to their Face book page. He suggested people need to know more about upcoming events in a more timely matter.

Discussion also included how to reach people without social media access, posting information from the commission Face book page onto the Farmington Community Forum page, attending other town events with informational flyers for commission events, post items in a window at the Friends of Farmington building, seek permission from the library to put up a conservation commission bulletin board, ask art classes at school to create posters for the commission advertising purposes and develop contacts at each school

**D). Conservation Easements Recorded-** Mr. Connolly reported that Selectmen have given approval to the commission to oversee the conservation easements for 5 properties in town and the easements have been recorded at the Registry of Deeds. He said he is awaiting receipt of the copies of the easements for the files.

**E).Leary Project-** Mr. Connolly said the project has yet to receive approval from Selectmen and is scheduled to go before the board this spring. Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is planning on closing on the property in the fall he said.

**F).Hills Project-** Mr. Connolly said they are expecting to close on this project sometime this spring.

**8).Chairman's Comment:**

Mr. Connolly said he has been on the board since 2007 and has been Chairman for all those years except for 2. He said he has seen a lot of growth and advancement of the commission and has received a lot of positive comments about the commission. He said it can't be done without everybody's participation and he is proud and honored to have the members of the board who help get all these things done. He said he wanted to say thank you and that he appreciates everyone's work. He also announced that he is running for Selectman this year.

**9). FYI:**

**A).Wildlife Trafficking Prohibition Bill-** Mr. Connolly said he placed information on this pending legislation in the members' packets for information only. He commented that the bill was geared to actions taking place out of the country only and he did not intend to address it on behalf of the commission.

**B).MMRG Race-** Moose Mountains Regional Greenways will hold their 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Run Around Snow Shoe Race" at the Abernaki Ski Area in Wolfeboro on Saturday, January 20 beginning at 9 a.m. There will also be a kids' Snow Shoe Shuffle event following the adult race at 10 a.m. Volunteers are needed for the event.

**C).Leary Field and Forest Snow Shoe Hike** – MMRG will hold a fundraising event on Sunday, January 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. to raise funds to put the Leary property in conservation. Mr. Connolly said about \$26,000 is needed to complete the process.

**10). Next Meeting:** Feb. 14, 2018 at 6 p.m.

**11). Any Other Business:**

Mr. Fisher asked if the commission wants to get involved in re-opening the Community Garden. Mr. Connolly said he would be more willing to back the project than run it as it is a big undertaking.

Mr. Fisher said he planned to find out what would be involved with running the garden and what were some problems that led to the previous Community Garden's demise.

**12). Adjournment:**

**Motion:** (Orvis, second Bogardus) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 7:58 p.m.

Respectively submitted  
Kathleen Magoon  
Recording Secretary

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Dave Connolly, Chairman