

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Commission Members Present:

Laura Bogardus, Chairman
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Michelle Elbert
Tom Sorensen
Bill Fisher, Secretary
Ann Titus, Selectmen's Rep.

Commission Members Absent:

Richard Ballou, excused

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Bogardus called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Comment: None

4). Review of Minutes:

April 10, 2019 – No errors or omissions

Motion: (Fisher, second Titus) to accept the minutes as written passed 6-0.

5). Old Business:

Spring Cleanup – Ms. Bogardus said 12 people participated in the Spring Cleanup held on April 28. She said that a resident cleaned up Civic Street and several other streets and Michelle Woods and her son cleaned Paulson Road that morning because they could not make it to the cleanup held later that day. All in all, we picked up 1,560 lbs. of trash which is a lot of trash considering we had 12 people participating she said.

Mr. Fisher said they picked up 16 tires, 4 wheels, 3 TV's, a roll of carpet and a toilet.

Mr. Orvis said that while driving around town he has noticed garbage bags along the side of the road and no trash on the side of the road so he assumed someone has been picking up and bagging that trash.

Mr. Fisher said there have been some postings on Face book stating that groups of people have been getting together and going out to pick up trash on their roads.

Chairman Bogardus asked if the bags are still on the roadside.

Mr. Orvis said as of Saturday morning the bags were still there.

Chairman Bogardus said she was glad to hear about the resident street cleanups and that she hoped someone planned to go back and pick up the bags for proper disposal.

She said that 3 teenagers who are members of the FHS Honor Society participated in the

cleanup as part of their community service requirements.

Trout Unlimited Workshops – Chairman Bogardus said this workshop was supposed to be held last week but the start time of the meeting was too early for most attendees so she rescheduled it for May 9, 2019 from 6-8 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chambers. She said some Farmington residents have already said they will attend as will some Milton residents. She said the second workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 15 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chambers.

Snowshoe Trail/Trail Maintenance Update – Chairman Bogardus said she spoke with Valley View elementary school Physical Education teacher Tammy Cook about the snowshoe trail planned for behind the school. She said Ms. Cook informed her that she had spoken to everyone that needed to be contacted and that everything is all set to go.

She said the next step is to contact the Boy Scouts about helping with the trail maintenance and when they are ready to begin the work she will notify the members so they can help out if they are available.

Any Other Old Business –Church Bicentennial- Chairman Bogardus said she has not had a chance to contact any of the local family farm owners about submitting a history and/or photos of their farms for display at the church celebration (rescheduled for June 22) as discussed at the last meeting.

Mr. Fisher said he also did not have an opportunity to speak with them.

Chairman Bogardus asked if the members still wanted to participate in the church event.

Mrs. Elbert said she would hate to not support the church but she did not want to take on anything else right now. She said they all have a lot going on now and asked if there was some easier way they could help the church.

Mrs. Titus suggested they could have a table with information about the Con Com at the event.

Mr. Fisher suggested they could help with the cleanup of the grounds after the celebration has ended. He said when it was originally scheduled to be held in Sept. they had more time to work on something and that he was trying to get some type of activities that farmers used to perform 100 years ago that the kids could try out. He said he would be available to attend the booth if they have one and asked what they would display at the booth.

Mrs. Elbert said she liked the idea of helping them cleanup after event is over and asked for the hours that the event will take place.

Mr. Fisher said it will take place during their annual chicken BBQ and that usually ends around 4 p.m.

Mrs. Elbert suggested the members could assist with the set up or take down and cleanup as their way of helping the church.

Mrs. Titus suggested that maybe a small donation would help the church with this event.

Chairman Bogardus said she planned to attend the church's next planning meeting on May 16 and talk to them about the commission's participation in the celebration and report back to the

commission at their June meeting.

Mrs. Elbert suggested that Ms. Bogardus ask them what type of “hands-on” assistance they could use in lieu of providing a display.

Timber Talk – Mrs. Elbert said she has been unable to contact Forester A.J. Dupere regarding having him as a guest speaker on timbering practices on June 13 but she planned to talk to him next week about getting his bio so they can start advertising the meeting.

ATV Club Update - Mr. Orvis said the Tri-City Trailblazers ATV Club is in the process of trying to expand their trails into Farmington. He said they are contacting landowners to get their permission to put trails on their property. It’s a slow process and it will take them a year to get a string of landowners together to make up a looped trail that works and it will be year 3 before anybody is riding on it he said.

He said the club’s next meeting is on Sunday, May 12 at 5 p.m. at the Dover Bowl.

Wellhead Protection – Mrs. Titus said she obtained the locations of the Town wells following the previous discussion about further protecting them by placing the land under a conservation easement. She said that wells #4, #5 and #6 are all located off of Route 11 and that the Selectmen would like to see the wells protected.

Chairman Bogardus said she wrote a letter of recommendation after speaking with Selectman (and former Con Com Chair) Dave Connolly who advised that the commission only needed to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending the wells be placed under a conservation easement for their review. She said she planned to address this item under new business.

6). New Business:

Steering Committee Update - Mr. Fisher said the results of the downtown parking study conducted by the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee in conjunction with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission and with assistance from UNH students was just received that day.

He said the Steering Committee has also discussed doing some beautification projects downtown but the plans are still in the developmental stage. The next Steering Committee meeting will be on Thursday, May 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Chambers to continue discussions on the old fire station lot and the parking study and is open to the public he said.

Hay Day – Chairman Bogardus said she received an application for booth space at Hay Day and asked the members if they wanted to participate in the event this year.

Mr. Fisher said he thought the commission should participate and that he would try to get the fur kits again for the booth display. He said that last year they also had a recycling display and asked if they wanted to do something different this year.

Mrs. Titus said Hay Day will be held on August 17 this year.

Chairman Bogardus said the theme this year is “Holidays” and noted that they have never participated in the yearly theme but they could choose “Earth Day” as a relevant holiday.

Mr. Sorensen suggested they could do something related to permaculture such as breaking down the soil types and the idea of bringing beneficial bacteria back into the soil.

Mr. Orvis said he would like to promote land management as he has seen other towns prohibit hunting and trapping in their Town Forests, discourage tree stands and don't perform any timber management there. He said a lot of people think conservation is preservation only and don't think that it is also management of resources so that the land is self-sustaining.

Mrs. Elbert asked if Mr. Orvis could break it down to 3 main ideas about how to properly manage a Town Forest.

Mr. Orvis said there is no set plan for every town and it begins with bringing in a Forester to evaluate the status of each forest and create a management plan.

Mrs. Elbert asked if this type of management plan would translate to other property owners as to how to manage their own acreage.

Mr. Orvis said it would and that for the most part the larger landowners in Farmington do a good job in managing their lands.

Mrs. Elbert said they would need to provide simple concepts to give to the townspeople not a big conceptual plan that they would shovel off to other towns.

Mr. Orvis said they need to promote what we have done here. Every once in a while you get someone who says you can't touch that because if you do it will be gone forever. That is not the case if it is managed correctly and one of the goals of our programs is to keep people educated he said.

Chairman Bogardus said they could create a display board showing the best management practices used on conservation areas in Farmington along with an interactive soils display.

Discussion included what types of containers would be most useful for the soils display such as aquariums and small boxes.

Chairman Bogardus asked if the members wished to reserve 3 spaces at Hay Day again this year. She said that in previous years they have paid \$30 a space for 3 spaces one of which is dedicated to the Seacoast Area Mobile Market (SAMM) van and 2 spaces were reserved for the Con Com's display.

Mr. Sorensen suggested they first find out if Seacoast Eat Local is interested and available to bring the van to Hay Day again this year.

Chairman Bogardus agreed and said she will contact them and suggested that they rent 3 spaces and invite them back if they are interested in attending.

Motion: (Orvis, second Fisher) to spend up to \$90 for 3 spaces at Hay Day passed 6-0.

Mrs. Elbert said another message she would like to get out is how bad Christmas wrapping is for the environment. She said the display would be easy to put together as there is a lot of information available on the subject.

Volunteer Program- Chairman Bogardus said the Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) and the UNH Cooperative Extension are offering a program entitled Easement

Monitoring for Volunteers to be held on May 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in New Durham.

Trails Grant- The NH Division of Parks and Recreation is offering a 20/20 recreational trails competitive grant program for motorized/non-motorized trail projects across the state. Chairman Bogardus said there are 3 workshops being offered and attendance at least one of the workshops is mandatory in order to apply for the funds. She said this may be something the ATV Club would be interested in and gave the contact information to Mr. Orvis.

Mr. Sorensen suggested the Con Com should also look into this for possible use for a trail system in the Town Forest.

Mr. Fisher cautioned the members about spreading themselves too thin by taking on new trails when there is still a lot of work to be done with some of the existing trails.

Wellhead Protection- Chairman Bogardus said the Board of Selectmen had asked if the Con Com would support putting the Town wellheads into conservation. She said she drafted a letter and read it aloud as follows:

“Dear Mr. Capello and Select board: Please be advised that on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 the Farmington Conservation Commission voted to recommend placing all current and future wellheads within Farmington under conservation easements to ensure the protection of these wells in perpetuity.”

Mr. Orvis said he was not sure what was meant by the wellhead and if they were referring to certain amount of area around each well.

Chairman Bogardus said the water for the wells comes from quite a distance and it has yet to be decided how much area they would like to see protected around each well.

Mr. Orvis said he thought with the current Town ordinances and state laws the wells are pretty well protected now.

Mr. Fisher said at their last meeting, Selectmen discussed that Town Well #4 located on cemetery property has been shut down and a new well is proposed on the edge of the cemetery property.

Mrs. Titus said they have completed the preliminary testing phase and will meet with the state and the cemetery property owners and then go through the rest of the permitting process.

Mr. Fisher said he thought that they also said the land would have to be put under a conservation easement to qualify for a grant to help pay the cost of installing a new well.

Mr. Orvis said there is also a Wellhead Protection Zone which is a zone of influence that there are different regulations for.

Mr. Fisher said he thought it is a good idea to put the wells under a conservation easement which would enforce those rules and couldn't hurt.

Mrs. Titus added that if there is any more protection we can give the wells we should do it.

Motion: (Elbert, second Sorensen) to recommend placing all current and future well heads within Farmington under conservation easements passed 6-0.

Any Other New Business – None

7). FYI:

Notices of Intent to Cut:

Map R25, Lots 5 & 9 - 185 acre parcel, the cut is 160 acres, the logger is Sweets' Logging; a permit by notification for logging trails crossing wetlands has been filed with the Wetlands Bureau

Map R30, Lot 4 - Hills' property on Ten Rod Road, 51 acre parcel, the cut is 20 acres, the logger is Dalton Mountain Forestry

Map R62, Lots 2 & 3 - Town Forest, Bay Road, 88 acre parcel, the cut is 40 acres, logger is Richard Humphrey under the direction of Forester Barry Keith

Map R45, Lot 2-1 - 13.6 acre parcel, the cut is 1 acre, the logger is Leo Tremblay

Map R42, Lot 7 & R54, Lot 1 - Scruton Road, 460 acre lot, the cut is 200 acres, the logger is Jake Runenburg

8). Upcoming Dates:

May 9: Trout Unlimited Workshop from 6-8 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chambers

May 15: Follow-up Trout Unlimited Workshop from 6-7:30 p.m. in Municipal Bldg.

June 12: June Con Com Meeting at 6 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chambers

June 13: Timber Talk at the Public Safety Building at 6 p.m.

June 15: Goodwin Library Annual Yard Sale

9). Adjournment:

Motion: (Fisher, second Orvis) to adjourn the meeting passed 6-0 at 6:55 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary

Laura Bogardus, Chairman