

Town of Farmington  
Conservation Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, February 10, 2016

**Commission Members Present:**

Dave Connolly, Chairman  
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman  
Laura Bogardus  
Resta Detwiler  
Jackie Bissell

**Commission Members Absent:**

Richard Ballou, excused  
Rose Muise

**Others Present:**

Jay Fortune  
Rod Thompson

**1). Call to Order:**

Chairman Connolly 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:**

Jan. 13, 2016- P. 2, C- FHS-change to Ms. Detwiler is working with a student...., HW- add the word "in"  
"would like to tie in...", P. 4, B4- change name to Withum.

**Motion:** (Orvis, second Detwiler) to approve as amended passed 3-2.

**5). Old Business:**

A). School Outreach- Resta/Dave:

FHS- Ms. Detwiler reported a recycling program presentation is planned. Thirty recycling bins with covers were given to the school by Waste Management.

HW- Ms. Detwiler reported recycling/environmental videos are available on You Tube. The fourth grade teachers are interested in what age appropriate materials are available.

Chairman Connolly reported the enrollment for the Barry 4H Camp is 85% full but they are saving a spot during the last week of the program for a Henry Wilson student to be sponsored by the Commission. Interested students are invited to submit an essay to be considered for the sponsorship. Members discussed ways to get the word out about the competition such as posters and Guidance outreach to students.

B). Town Forest- Dave

Chairman Connolly said Barry Keith of BH Keith Assoc. plans to come before the Commission in April to discuss the status of the forest management plan and the trail on the French property. He also told members the man who built the kiosks for the property has asked if the commission is interested in a bid for the construction of foot bridges. Consensus of the members was to invite him to submit a quote. Members also discussed walking the Ronci property in the spring. Vice Chairman Orvis noted that during high water season is a good time to check for flooding in areas where bridges or piers are planned.

C). Conservationist of the Year- Members discussed the nomination of Chairman Connolly in recognition of his efforts to support conservation. Discussion also included nominating the Dept. of Public Works for their support of conservation in town.

**Motion:** (Bissell, second Detwiler) to nominate Dave Connolly and the DPW as Conservationists of the Year passed unanimously. The award will be presented in March at the Town Meeting.

D). Arbor Day- Chairman Connolly told the members he contacted Kendra Collins of The American Chestnut Foundation to discuss possible sources of trees to donate for Arbor Day. Discussion included donating trees to the Henry Wilson School, regular membership in the foundation costs \$40 and members receive Chestnut seeds, sponsorship memberships cost \$300, saplings can be purchased for \$10 each and the Commission has previously spent from \$300 to \$500 for trees.

**Motion:** (Orvis, second Detwiler) to join The American Chestnut Foundation at the sponsorship level passed unanimously.

Additional discussion included if the trees are guaranteed to grow, who will care for the trees when school is not in session, proper care once planted, site requirements for planting, discuss the issues with the school Principal and the trees may not be received in time for Arbor Day this year.

E). Earth Day- None.

F). Any Other Old Business:

1). Responsible Off-road Riding- Vice Chairman Orvis said he was unable to find a group that has a program to present at a forum that would be sponsored by the Commission. He said there are groups in the western part of the country that have this type of program and present them to various groups. He is looking into finding a group that may be interested in starting such a program.

2). By-law Amendments- Chairman Connolly said Selectmen returned their proposed by-law changes with a request for further information. Selectmen noted the by-laws contain a requirement to remove a member who has been absent four times in 60 days which is not possible as the Commission only meets once a month. He will ask the Town Clerk to pull the original by-laws and revisit the matter at the next meeting.

## **6). New Business:**

A). Moose Mountain Regional Greenways- Chairman Connolly reported the annual dues for the organization are due. Membership is \$100 he said.

**Motion:** (Orvis, second Bogardus) to pay \$100 for membership in the MMRG passed unanimously.

B). Memo from Assessing Clerk- Chairman Connolly told members a memo from Assessing Clerk Kelly Heon said that the owner of a property abutting the Town Forest is willing to donate the property if it can be done with no legal costs to him. The .1 acre property (Map R62, Lot 006) is currently owned by Aaron Fenderson and has 110 feet of frontage on Bay Road the memo said.

Discussion included there are back taxes due on the property, some issues with the title, attorney fees,

new deed and filing fees, permitted uses and activities at the site, wait for the town to take it for back taxes and then deed to the Cons. Com. and the expenses relating to acquiring the property would come from the Conservation Fund. After some additional discussion the matter was tabled until next month's meeting.

C). Community Gardens- Resident Jay Fortune came before the commission to discuss how to increase participation at the garden on town owned property located on Bay Road. Discussion included management issues, the non-profit status was dissolved but the organization was not officially closed, getting help for mowing, weeding and watering, water pressure problems, town garden space is good for people with no backyard, DPW helped with water connections, cut trees and put up a fence, soil conditions, how much is produced, what happens to produce not used by the gardener, the Commission supports the concept, container gardening and rain barrels. Members suggested Mr. Fortune look into contacting other towns with successful community gardens for advice, post on the Farmington Face Book pages, students who must fulfill community service requirements and bring a group of people to a Selectmen's meeting to brainstorm with the board.

**7). FYI:**

Mr. Dorr received approval for completed forestry of R29-14 and R38-2.

The Commission received Notice of Minimum Wetlands Impact for R46-1.

**8). March Meeting Dates:**

Town Elections- March 8

Town Meeting- March 9

Conservation Commission meeting- March 16

**9). Any Other Business:**

Group photo for the Town Report.

**10). Adjournment:**

**Motion:** (Orvis, second Connolly) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 7:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary