

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Commission Members Present:

Dave Connolly, Chairman
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman (6:10 p.m.)
Bill Fisher
Resta Detwiler

Commission Members Absent:

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

Others Present:

Resident Rod Thompson

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. He said that due to the lack of a quorum at this time this would be an informational meeting only. Mr. Fisher was seated as an alternate member.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Comment: None.

4). Review of Minutes:

April 13, 2016- Tabled until later in the meeting.

5). Final Prep for Clean-Up:

Chairman Connolly said the annual Spring Clean-Up would begin at the Municipal Office Building on Saturday, May 14 at 7 a.m. Participants will register and then be assigned roads for pick-up. The clean-up work will begin at 8 a.m. and end at noon time when refreshments will be served back at the Municipal Office Building. Discussion included distribution of flyers, number of participants expected and donations from local businesses.

At 6:10 p.m. member Randy Orvis arrived and Chairman Connolly said there is now a quorum of commission members. He closed the informational meeting and opened the official commission meeting. He then took a few minutes to inform Mr. Orvis about the current discussion.

Additional discussion included which roads will be cleaned, supply/pick up of trash bags, Police protection/participation, procedure for disposal of materials at the Transfer Station, pick up/set up of refreshments, the supply of vests and gloves, Rochester and Milton have bigger turn-outs for their Clean-Up days, offering a prize for the most trash picked up, participants/donors will receive certificates, Mr. Fisher will donate the soda and the clean-up will be recorded by the Cable TV Coordinator.

Chairman Connolly also announced receipt of a \$50 donation from Jay Fortune for the clean-up event which will be deposited into the Conservation Fund under "Other Conservation Resources".

6). Old Business:

A). FHS Presentations/Resta- Ms. Detwiler told members that the recycling program presentation was presented before 15 Science classes at the high school with approx. 250 students in attendance. She said some of the teachers requested a copy of the 40 page presentation for use as part of the curriculum. The presentation at the Henry Wilson School has been postponed until the fall she said. Chairman Connolly thanked all of the members, teachers and staff for their help and participation. Arrangements are underway to bring recycled items collected to the town transfer station he said.

B). Hay Day- Chairman Connolly told members that the Hay Day celebration will be held on Saturday, August 20 and that this year's theme is "Just Keep Swimming". He said the commission's application for booth space at the event has been approved. Discussion included ideas for booth displays such as promotion of the types of fish found in the Mad River, plastic pool/fish with fishing for children, the fur kit, portable fish tanks and fish, invite state and local organizations to attend or provide displays and the mobile recycling trailer. Members also discussed participating in the best decorated booth contest and the bed race and who will supply the canopies, tables and chairs for the booth space. Members will revisit the matter at the next meeting.

C). French Property Update/Dave- Chairman Connolly reported that two of the foot bridges planned for the trail have been delivered to the site. One bridge has been installed and work on the second bridge is underway. He asked anyone wishing to help with the installation to meet at the parking area on Tuesday, May 17 at 8 a.m.

D). Town Forest Update/Dave- Mr. Fisher said he took a look at the sign on the Abbott's Grant portion of the property and offered to fix the sign. He said he will replace four boards and then repaint the entire sign and apply a clear top coat. The members thanked Mr. Fisher and accepted his offer.

Chairman Connolly then reported he received two bids from J.S. Yurick Landscape Services of Farmington as follows;

Enlargement of the existing parking area and creation of a new parking area using town supplied materials- \$300.

Supply seed, fertilizer, lime, apply seed and hay cover at the log landing- \$1,400.

Motion: (Orvis, second Detwiler) to accept the bids as presented passed 4-0.

E). Location of Walking Trails/Resta- The members also briefly discussed places to walk in town following a resident inquiry to Ms. Detwiler. Suggestions included the Dubois property(enter from the Smith property at the flume), the logging trails or woods road at the Town Forest, the French property trail and the Farmington Rail Trail parallel to Route 11.

7). New Business:

A). BH Keith Contract Extension- Chairman Connolly told the members he received a proposal from Barry Keith of BH Keith Associates to extend his contract with the town for forest management services. The agreement would allow Mr. Keith to continue the Town Forest management plan work for one year.

Motion: (Orvis, second Connolly) to enter into a contract extension with BH Keith Associates, authorize the Chairman to sign the contract and then send it to Selectmen for approval passed 4-0.

B). Invoices- Chairman Connolly said he also received the following invoices from Mr. Keith and Mr. Yurick:

1). Site reconnaissance and repair work (Bay Road) and attendance at the Town Forest Public Hearing- \$575.

Motion: (Orvis, second Detwiler) to pay the invoice as submitted passed 4-0.

2). Log landing sign and improvements (Bay Road) - \$180.

Motion: (Detwiler, second Orvis) to pay the bill as presented passed 4-0.

3). Trail bridge, specifications and site walk for nature trail (French property) - \$510.

Motion: (Orvis, second Detwiler) to pay the bill as submitted passed 4-0.

4). Placement of trail flags and file for a Dept. of Environmental Services permit for the natural trail (French property) - \$830.

Motion: (Fisher, Orvis) to pay the invoice as presented passed 4-0.

5). Deliver and stage bridges, trail clearing to date (French property) from J.S. Yurick Landscape Services of Farmington for \$840.

Motion: (Detwiler, second Orvis) to pay the bill as presented passed 4-0.

C). Resignation- Chairman Connolly read a letter from member Jackie Bissell informing the members that due to health issues she must resign from the commission as of May 1.

Motion: (Connolly, second Orvis) to accept Ms. Bissell's resignation with regret passed 4-0.

Chairman Connolly then asked Mr. Fisher if he would like to become a full time member of the commission. After a brief discussion, Mr. Fisher said he would be willing to become a full time member.

Motion: (Detwiler, second Connolly) to accept Bill Fisher as a full time member of the Conservation Commission passed 4-0. The request for the status change now goes to Selectmen for approval.

D). Any Other New Business- Chairman Connolly said Barry Keith suggested maintenance and fertilizing should be done to the log landing on the Dubois property. Connolly said the work will cost approx. \$450 and asked members if the work should be performed now or next year. Consensus of the members was to table the matter and schedule a site walk to review the conditions there.

Review of Minutes:

April 13, 2016- Page 3, Waldron Woods, second sentence; add "who" between "members" and "have".

Motion: (Orvis, second Fisher) to accept the minutes as amended passed 4-0.

Chairman Connolly said he wished to add a two page summary of Mr. Keith's discussion on the French property from the April meeting to the minutes.

Motion: (Detwiler, second Orvis) to add the summary to the minutes passed 4-0.

8). FYI:

A). Grant Information- Ms. Detwiler gave the members information on grants and the grants-in-aid program available through the NH Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Trails. Discussion included bring the program to Mr. Keith's attention for possible assistance with grant writing, there are no town owned properties suitable for off road vehicle use at this time, finding a speaker for a seminar on responsible ATV use, trying to create a network for ATV riders similar to the snowmobile riders' network of trails and riders and the Commission will sponsor the forum if Mr. Orvis can book a speaker.

B). Handicapped Access for River Road- Discussion included researching grants for construction of a

handicapped access for fishing, U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant availability, the need for an ADA or a flood plain engineer, Strafford Regional Planning L-Chip grants and some grant programs allow volunteer time as the match for the grant. Members will discuss the matter again at the next meeting.

C). Wetlands Permit- Chairman Connolly said the commission received notice that a wetland permit was granted for the Dept. of Transportation work on Route 153.

D). Intent to Cut- Chairman Connolly said he received nine Notices of Intent to Cut in town and will file them in the commission files in the Municipal Office Building.

9). Upcoming Dates:

A). Spring Clean-up (5-14-16)

B). June Meeting (6-8-16)

10). Any Other Business: None.

11). Adjournment:

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

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary