

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 9, 2016

Commission Members Present:

Dave Connolly, Chairman
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Charlie King, Selectmen's Rep.
Bill Fisher
Resta Detwiler
Rose Muise

Commission Members Absent:

Laura Bogardus, Secretary
Richard Ballou

Others Present:

Kaitlyn Baillargeon, UNH student

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). Interview with UNH Co-op:

UNH student Kaitlyn Baillargeon came before the commission to conduct an interview for a class project regarding the conservation or development wetlands. She asked the members the following questions:

What are the roles and duties of the Commission? - protect water and open spaces, educate the public and act in an advisory role to other town boards.

What are some of the current projects you are working on? - hiking trails, conservation easements, the Town Forest Management Plan and other small projects

How much "say" does the commission have in the management of the Town Forest- all of the "say" for the plan, using volunteers and professional managers for conservation easements.

What are some methods to conserve land? Through conservation easements with advice and assistance in finding funding from land trusts and the Commission, example-NH Fish and Game gave the Commission the money to purchase the French and Dubois properties easements in exchange for an easement to allow fishing and hunting on the properties.

Is there much public involvement in these conservation efforts? A few community members are involved but it is mostly conducted by the Commission members and contracted professional help.

How do you promote public involvement? Through social media, local public TV broadcast of board meetings and events, public notices, having a booth at the Hay Day celebration, the Town website and meeting with other Conservation Commissions, agencies and groups

Is there anything you would like to add? – The Moose Mountain Regional Greenways has recently met with Selectmen to discuss the mapping/data collection for the conservation action plan for the region, Commission members plan to participate in the roundtable discussions at the NH Assoc. of Cons Com's Mixer on Dec. 3

Ms. Baillargeon said she also plans to conduct an individual interview with Chairman Connolly. Chairman Connolly then said another UNH student, Andrew Fast plans to speak to the

Commission next month regarding GRANIT, the statewide GIS clearing house for online mapping and data collection/distribution.

5). Town Forest Trees RFP's:

Chairman Connolly said an RFP was sent out seeking bids to drop eight dead trees at the Town Forest and leave them outside the parking area. He asked Vice Chairman Orvis to open and read the four bids received in the absence of the Commission Secretary.

Bids were received from the following bidders:

Northeast Arbor Tec, Farmington- bid \$0, owner Brian Boisvert offered to donate his time to drop the trees

Barron Bothers Development, Farmington- bid \$1,000 to drop and leave trees, \$1,500 to drop and chip trees

Burke Tree Service, Rochester- bid \$1,100

Guy Leighton, Strafford- bid \$800

Discussion included what to do with the trees after they are taken down, what type of trees need removal, condition of the trees and whether to offer the wood to the public for fire wood.

Motion: (Connolly, second Fisher) to accept the donation proposal from Northeast Arbor Tec passed 6-0.

Consensus of the Commission was to offer the wood to Mr. Boisvert.

6). New Business:

A). Bullwinkle/SELT- Chairman Connolly said he was contacted by Jeremy Lougee of Southeast Land Trust (SELT) requesting a letter of support from the Commission regarding the plan to place the 60 acre Bullwinkle property on Sheepboro Road in conservation. He informed the members that he signed a letter of support on behalf of the Commission.

Ms. Detwiler said the Planning Board has also signed a letter of support for the project.

Chairman Connolly then pointed out the location of the property and noted that it abuts the back side of the Huppe property and is in the vicinity of the Rochester reservoir.

B). Blue Job/DRED- NH Forest and Lands Habitat Biologist Jim Oehler will attend next month's meeting to provide a Power Point presentation regarding the wildlife habitat work to be conducted on Blue Job Mountain. The work area will be accessed from the Scruton Road side of the mountain and will include mowing or burning of certain sections of the area each year. Mr. Oehler will notify the DPW of the work plans Connolly said.

C). NHACC Dues- Mr. Connolly said he received notice that the organization dues will remain the same for 2017. He said the \$345 in yearly dues will be due in April and he has included the amount in the 2017 Commission budget proposal. He added that Ms. Detwiler and Ms. Muise will attend the Annual Meeting and Conference at Pembroke Academy on Nov. 12 and payment for their attendance has been submitted.

D). Meetinghouse Hill Road- Mr. Connolly said he was contacted by Police Chief Jay Drury who informed him that a resident has been seen frequently riding a bike with a wagon and picking up trash in the approx. one-quarter mile area from Route 11 up the hill. He said the Chief noted that no one asked him to do this and suggested the Commission recognize him for his efforts. Consensus was to recognize the resident at a Commission meeting, invite the Chief/officer to attend the meeting and to provide a certificate and token of appreciation.

E). Any Other New Business- Chairman Connolly said an invoice has been received from

Norway Plains for the site walk, consulting and field investigation for the proposed handicapped fishing access on the Ronci property. He said that minus the \$1,000 retainer previously paid, the balance owed is \$795.

Motion: (Orvis, second Detwiler) to pay the invoice in the amount of \$795 to Norway Plains passed 6-0.

7). Review of Minutes:

October 12, 2016- No errors or omissions found.

Motion: (Orvis, second Detwiler) to approve the minutes as written passed 6-0.

8). Old Business:

A). School Recycling Program- Chairman Connolly noted that the high school had a recycling program that was working well and said that he would like to see a similar program in each of the Town's three schools. He said he received an e-mail stating there seemed to be some confusion over who would take the items to the landfill and if they need permission to bring them there. He said the Town Administrator said the schools are allowed to use the transfer station but the school representative said the janitor got resistance from the landfill attendant.

Mr. King said the janitor probably got resistance because he did not have a landfill sticker on his vehicle. He added that residents must have a landfill permit sticker on their windshields or if not a resident, they must get a letter of permission from the Town.

Mr. Fisher asked how much recycling was generated at the high school.

Chairman Connolly said there were collection boxes in each classroom and 1 box on each floor.

Ms. Detwiler said the school workshop was left full at the end of school year.

Mr. King asked Mr. Connolly to forward the e-mail he received to him and that he would discuss the matter with the Town Administrator and try to resolve the problem.

Chairman Connolly then suggested that it may be helpful to approach the School Board and discuss developing a policy to address the recycling program that would include "who would do it and how".

Discussion also included school employee identification, waste collection companies used by the Town and School District, revenue for single stream recycling, reducing the waste stream and the days of operation at the transfer station will change to Friday through Monday in 2017. Chairman Connolly said he will work on a proposal and present it for review at the next meeting.

B). Blue Job Signs- Ms. Muise said she contacted NH DRED Bureau of Forests and Lands Administrator Bill Carpenter to let him know that the Commission is still interested in assisting with the installation of trail signs and to find out the status of the project. She said she has not yet received a response from Mr. Carpenter.

C). Hill Farm Conservation Easement- Mr. Connolly said Jeremy Lougee informed him that he is putting together the final paperwork to apply for a grant to fund placing the Pound Road farm in conservation. The application must be filed by December 1 he said.

9). F.Y.I.:

Chairman Connolly said he received a "courtesy notice" that there will be an additional 800 feet of impact to the area of the Main Street Bridge. The work will include shoal removal and re-location of pipes.

Ms. Detwiler asked if the road will be relocated.

Mr. King said Main Street will not be re-located and that the current work involves installation of a temporary bridge this winter to be used until the new bridge is completed next year. Vice Chairman Orvis asked if the state or the Town is doing the installation work. Mr. King said the work is being done by Coleman Concrete and E. D. Swett, Inc.

10). Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 14, 2016

11). Any Other Business: None

12). Adjournment:

Motion: (King, second Orvis) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 7:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Dave Connolly, Chairman