

Town of Farmington  
Conservation Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, April 13, 2016

**Commission Members Present:**

Dave Connolly, Chairman  
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman  
Laura Bogardus, Secretary (6:15 p.m.)  
William Fisher(6:20 p.m.)  
Resta Detwiler  
Charlie King, Selectmen's Rep.

**Commission Members Absent:**

Richard Ballou, excused  
Jackie Bissell, excused  
Rose Muise

**Others Present:**

Barry Keith, BH Keith Associates  
Residents Rodney Thompson, Ken Murphy

**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:**

March 16, 2016-

**Motion:** (Detwiler, second Orvis) to approve the minutes as written passed 4-0.

**5). FYI:**

**A). MMRG**

1). Thank You- Chairman Connolly told members he received a letter thanking commission members for payment of dues for membership in the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways. The letter also thanked the members for being an active and participating commission.

2). Annual Meeting- Connolly also informed the members that the MMRG Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at the Kingswood Tavern Greenside in Wolfeboro, NH from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Ms. Detwiler will attend.

B). Town of Exeter Forum- Chairman Connolly said members were invited to the "Healthy Lawns, Clean Water" forum that will be held on Wednesday, May 4 at Exeter High School from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Speakers will talk about the wise use of lawn care products such as fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides

and vendors of eco-friendly lawn care products will also attend. Mr. Orvis will attend the forum. Chairman Connolly then asked the members to move to item 8 on the agenda as the public hearing was not scheduled to begin until 6:30 p.m.

**8). Old Business:**

A). Recycling at the High School/Resta- Ms. Detwiler said the Power Point presentation to kick off the program has been completed and edited. The presentation will be shown to science classes on next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at FHS. She asked for volunteers to help with the all day presentations. Chairman Connolly said he will attend on Monday.

B). Spring Clean Up/Resta- Ms. Detwiler reported she had to rewrite the flyer advertising the clean-up event as the meeting place has been changed to the Municipal Office Building. The date of the event has not changed and will still be held on Saturday, May 14 with a rain date of Saturday, May 21. Letters seeking donations/participation will be sent to Wal Mart, Stephanie Piro at the Fosters Daily Democrat newspaper, The Puddledock Press, the Boy Scouts, the 500 Boys and Girls Club, Valley View, Henry Wilson and high schools and to local businesses. Mr. Connolly also suggested personal contact with some the bigger businesses in the area. He will contact the Police, Fire and Public Works Depts. for coverage and/or participation.

C). Any Other Old Business- None.

Members then moved to agenda item #10.

**10). FYI:**

A). Wetland Notification- DES notified the commission that the Cemetery Association applied for permission to conduct work in a wetlands area on Canal Street. The state dept. said they intended to contact them for more information on the scope of the work before proceeding with the application.

B). Hay Day- Chairman Connolly asked if the members wished to participate and purchase booth space at the Hay Day celebration on Saturday, August 20. Discussion included how many spaces to rent, plans for attendees, displays, handouts and whether to participate in the theme contest which is titled "Just Keep Swimming". He asked the members to be thinking about activities/contest entry.

**Motion:** (Bogardus, second Detwiler) to rent three booth spaces at Hay Day passed 6-0.

C). Nancy Walker- Chairman Connolly said he was contacted by Ms. Walker, who is a descendent of Jeremy Waldron, regarding the Waldron Grant portion of the Town Forest. She is researching the history of the property and will pass along the information when completed.

**Recess-**

**Motion:** (King, second Connolly) to take a five minute recess passed unanimously at 6:25 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

**8). Public Hearing:**

The Farmington Conservation Commission hereby gives Notice of a Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss further Management Plan implementation regarding the properties making up the Town Forest on Bay Road. The hearing will be held at the Town Municipal Offices, 356 Main Street, Farmington, NH. David Connolly, Chairman.

Chairman Connolly opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. Environmental Consultant Barry Keith of BH Keith Associates came forward to review completed and proposed activities in the Town Forest and French properties. His presentation included informational handouts and maps and began with a recommendation that rules and regulations be developed for all town conservation lands consistent with the deed restrictions for each parcel. He said activities such as dumping, fires, camping, hunting/target shooting, vehicle use and hours of use should be addressed.

Abbott's Grant- Mr. Keith said the sign is in need of repair and brush around the sign needs to be cut back. He also recommended a slight expansion of the parking lot, annual inspection and maintenance of the existing woods road and establishment of a new entrance about 200 feet east of the existing entrance to access a future log landing. Discussion included possible addition of fill to widen the shoulder area and lessen the curve in the woods road. Consensus of the members was to request that Mr. Keith get quotes for the sign repair, contact the DPW about available fill and feedback on a new entrance, get a quote to enlarge the parking area, plan a clean-up day and short term maintenance and develop a plan for the entire project.

Waldron Woods- Mr. Keith's recommendations included options for the access road constructed off of Bay Road (do nothing, establish a permanent wildlife opening, improve it with more gravel, install a gate, create a parking area or any combination of these options), install signs at property corners and along boundaries and a potential future nature trail. Discussion included members have not visited the site recently, future additional parking, build a pavilion for educational use, add gravel to take the "curse" out of the entrance road, extend the entrance road to the Lawrence parcel, move the rocks in the parking area and plan a site walk of the lot. Consensus of the commission was to move forward with the parking area improvements, get quotes for creation of a wildlife opening, contact the DPW for available fill and develop plans for a nature trail.

Service Agreement- Mr. Keith noted that his service agreement with the town runs out in June and asked if the commission would like to go forward with him and extend the agreement. Chairman Connolly requested he provide a copy of a written contract extension to the commission at next month's meeting for discussion and then it will go to Selectmen for approval.

## **7). French Trail:**

A). Layout, Crossings and Estimates- Mr. Keith's recommendations for this site included review of the proposed trail realignment, obtain a DES wetlands trail permit for the revised trail and construction of trail and bridges. Discussion included reasons the trail should be realigned, new location of the trail, location, number, materials used and length of foot bridges, when construction would begin, habitat issues, explanation of "guide wire and ring hook bridges", whether to allow ATV use of the trail and flagging the trail. Consensus of the members was to agree to the proposed new location of the trail, request Mr. Keith notify DES of the trail relocation and to use three foot wide decking to deter ATV use.

**Motion:** (Detwiler, second Orvis) to purchase seven three foot wide bridges with 2' x 6' pressure treated lumber not to exceed \$1,818 which includes all necessary hardware to be delivered to the site by W.C. Barrows passed unanimously.

Additional discussion included the length of the trail, storage of materials to prevent theft, finding volunteers to construct and install the bridges, ask Mr. Barrows to construct the bridges, construction and installation of the bridges by Mr. Barrows would bring the estimated total cost of the bridge project

to \$4,600 to \$5,100. Consensus of the commission was to allow Mr. Keith to oversee the project and to request notice of the date that the work will begin.

**Motion:** (King, second Bogardus) to authorize BH Keith Associates to install, clear and blaze the trail not to exceed \$3,500 and to authorize Barry Keith to oversee the project passed unanimously.

Additional discussion included finding volunteers, the town's liability to volunteers and once the trail is built it is covered under state land use regulations. Chairman Connolly will check on liability issues.

There were no public comments so Chairman Connolly closed the Public Hearing at 7:50 p.m.

**9). New Business:**

**A). Election of Officers-**

**Motion:** (Bogardus, second Detwiler) to nominate Randy Orvis for Vice Chairman passed unanimously.

**Motion:** (Bogardus, second Detwiler) to nominate Dave Connolly for Chairman passed unanimously.

**Motion:** (Connolly, second Detwiler) to nominate Laura Bogardus for Commission Secretary passed unanimously.

**B). Any Other New Business-** None.

**11). Upcoming Dates:**

A). Farmington High School Recycling Program presentation- April 18- 20, 2016.

B). Next meeting of the Conservation Commission - Wednesday, May 11, 2016.

C). Spring Clean-up- Saturday, May 14, 2016

**12). Any Other Business:** None.

**13). Adjournment:**

**Motion:** (Orvis, second Bogardus) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 7:55 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary