

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

Commission Members Present:

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

Commission Members Absent:

Laura Bogardus, excused

Others Present:

Carlene Lapierre
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:

July 13, 2016-

Motion: (Orvis, second Detwiler) to accept the minutes as written passed 7-0.

5). DES Permit Application:

Resident Carlene Lapierre told the commission that she and her husband own a hobby farm containing five cows, one bull and chickens at 68 Milton Road. The parcel is split by a small brook with a pole barn/shelter in front and a field in the back portion of the parcel. She said they applied for a Dept. of Environmental Services wetlands impact permit to construct an animal trail over the brook area to access the back field. The proposal calls for crossing three wet areas, installation of a culvert and fencing to keep the animals out of the water. She added that the plan was designed and engineered by DES and funded through a USDA grant.

Mr. Orvis said he didn't have any major concerns with the plan but noted that the Natural Heritage Report submitted with the application is three years old and that DES may require a report less than one year old.

Mr. Connolly asked about the USDA grant funding.

Mrs. Lapierre said they will pay the project costs up front and then be reimbursed by the grant funds following successful completion of the plan. She added that the USDA will inspect the project each step along the way as they did during the construction of the animal shelter.

Discussion included the commission's role in the application process is to review and comment during the 30 day review process.

Motion: (Orvis, second Ballou) to authorize the Chairman to sign the application after the 30 day review period passed 7-0.

6). Dubois/Steve Yurick:

Mr. Orvis read from a letter from Steve Yurick of JS Land Design Services stating that he reviewed the log landing area at the Dubois property and submitted a quote for maintenance of the site. Mr. Yurick quoted a cost of \$540 for limestone (\$240 for the lime, \$300 to spread it) and \$450 for fertilizer (\$150 for the fertilizer, \$300 to spread it) for the just under 1 acre area.

Discussion included limiting the growth of woody species and encouraging herbaceous species, the area was seeded 2 or 3 years ago and to only apply the lime to the area for now.

Motion: (Ballou, second Detwiler) to expend \$540 to lime the one acre area of the Dubois property.

Additional discussion included acid level of the soil, put down less lime, having to spend \$300 to spread it no matter how much lime was put down, not fertilizing in the woods, there is no money in the town budget for liming or fertilizing, mowing to limit growth of unwanted species and whether to mow in the spring or fall.

Vote: The motion failed 0-7.

Chairman Connolly said he will obtain a quote for mowing the area for next month's meeting.

7). Ronci RFP Update:

Chairman Connolly said he and Mr. Orvis went to the proposed site of a handicapped fishing area on the Ronci property to meet with four individuals possibly interested in taking on the project. He said they showed them the area and what the commission would like to do with the site. Discussion included that portion of the river is shallow with a bedrock bottom ledge, spring flooding and the scars from previous ice jams.

The deadline to submit a proposal is Sept. 9 and the commission will discuss the matter further at their Sept. 14 meeting Connolly said.

8). Old Business:

A). French Trail- In a second letter from Mr. Yurick he updated the members about the work completed and what still needs to be done at the French property. He said the approaches to the bridges have been completed, the stone steps have been constructed and the eye hooks for the cables have been installed. The cables and

clamps will be installed next week and a hole still needs to be filled he said.

1).Trail Reveal- Chairman Connolly said he sent approx. 14-15 invitations for the Sept. 18 event to local elected officials, town dept. heads, Farmington Police and Fire Depts. and administration, NH Fish and Game, NH Dept. of Environmental Services, state Senators and Representatives, the Goodwin Library, Gov. Hassan's office, JS Burrows (constructed the bridges) and the Boy Scouts. He said the agenda will include speakers Barry Keith, Town Administrator Arthur Capello, Board of Selectmen and Steve Walker of the NH Office of Land Monitoring, Energy and Planning.

Ms. Detwiler said she has invited the members of the Moose Mountain Regional Alliance, Moose Mountain Regional Greenways, Farmington Planning Board and the Farmington Economic Development Committee at their respective meetings.

Ms. Detwiler and Ms. Muise volunteered to put flyers advertizing the event around town. Chairman Connolly said they have worked on the trail for years and that he is very proud of what has been accomplished there.

2).GIS Mapping- Resident Rod Thompson said the GIS mapping of the property has been completed but there are no features or points of interest included on the map. Members discussed adding features and photos in the spring, putting a revised map in the kiosk at the site, using satellite photos to update the PDF file and the installation of signs directing users to points of interest along the trail.

3).E-911 Designation- Chairman Connolly said Fire Chief Reinert advised him that he will notify state officials in Concord who will assign the emergency number to the site.

4).Trailhead Sign- Mr. Fisher presented the hand painted stenciled wood sign he made to be placed at the trailhead. The brown sign with yellow letters will be placed approx. four feet off the ground he said. Chairman Connolly thanked him for his time and contribution of the sign.

5).Parking Area- Chairman Connolly reported that the area to the right of the parking area is over grown and needs to be "weed wacked". Mr. Fisher volunteered to cut it back. Members noted that trail users can also park along the side of Hornetown Road if the lot is full.

B). Town Forrest- Mr. Connolly said he is still waiting for the tree service to take down the dead trees so there is no new news to report.

C). Hay Day:

1). Final Prep- Chairman Connolly said the NH Fish and Game Dept. has agreed to supply a fur kit and a track kit for the Cons. Com. booth at the August 20 celebration. Mr. Fisher agreed to pick up the kits when he picks up the Recycling Wagon. He said the following organizations have agreed to send a representative or materials for the booth: NH Assoc. of Cons. Com (materials), 4H Co-operative Extension (rep.), York Center for Wildlife (rep. and possibly animals), Southeast Land Trust (rep.) and Moose Mountain Regional Greenways (rep.).

Mr. Connolly said the members will provide four canopies and the chairs and tables will

be supplied by Taylor Rental. He asked those people helping to set things up to arrive at the booth space by 7 a.m. as guests are scheduled to start arriving at 8 a.m.

D). Other Old: None.

9). New Business:

1). UNH Wet and Wild Training- Ms. Muise said the next training session is scheduled to be held on August 18 and asked the committee's thoughts about having a member attend a class aimed at pre-school aged children.

Chairman Connolly said members attended this training three years ago and have yet to use it. He questioned the value of spending the time and effort for such young children as they may not retain much of the message. He said he would favor training aimed at middle school and high school students as you would get a "bigger bang for your buck".

10). FYI:

A). Intent to Cut- Map 29, Lot 14 and Map 38, Lot 02, Eben Dorr, 80 of 100 acres to be cut.

B). Minor Wetlands Impact Notification - Map R15-002.

11). Upcoming Dates:

A). Hay Day- August 20, 2016

B). Next Meeting- Sept. 14, 2016

12). Any Other Business:

A). Woods, Water and Wildlife Festival- Ms. Detwiler said the 14th annual festival will be held by Moose Mountain Regional Greenways at the Branch Hill Farm in Milton Mills on Saturday, August 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

13). Adjournment:

Motion: (Orvis, second Ballou) to adjourn the meeting passed 7-0 at 7:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary