

MEETING MINUTES

Barrington Conservation Commission

April 16, 2015 7:00 PM

Barrington Elementary School Annex, Professional Development Center

PRESENT: John Wallace, Chairman
Pam Failing, Vice-chair
Marika Wilde
Susan Gaudiello, Selectmen representative
Anne Melvin
Ken Grossman
Alison Desmarais, Alternate

ABSENT: Glenn Gould, Alternate
Peter Sandin, Alternate
Julia Guimond, Alternate

CALL TO ORDER

Barrington Conservation Commission (BCC) Chair John Wallace called the meeting of April 16, 2015 to order at 7:00.

DELEGATION OF VOTING MEMBERS Chair John Wallace confirmed the presence of members as above, with Alison serving as a non-voting member. John confirmed that Susan, as selectmen representative, does serve as a voting member.

- 1) **Guests:** Bob Eckert, SATWaSR Forest Management Plan
Bob reviewed a sheet that outlines a forest management plan. He stated that a plan is usually map based with an initial focus on broad forest stand mapping to get an understanding of what's out there. The first mapping should be of the same standard and quality. This mapping could also include a preliminary, less detailed, inventory mapping of rare species, stream, vegetation, and wildlife. The forest inventory data come from the mapping, and a more intense inventory on a smaller area could be done if timber harvesting or thinning was to occur, or if more information was needed for achieving or setting goals. The mapping helps support and guide the goals, and Ken mentioned that water protection is already a goal for SATWaSR. There was discussion of sustained biodiversity, recreation, and timber harvesting as other possible objectives. Alison asked about using volunteers as part of the process,

and Bob said he thought this is a possibility. He mentioned that Don Quigley (UNH Thompson School) might be able to have students do some mapping, such as preliminary mapping of wetland edges. He suggested that Don Quigley be contacted to inquire about his (students) possible participation in the process, and Pam volunteered to make this inquiry. John will contact the Forest Society to find out if they have recommendations, and possibly templates, for the RFP.

- 2) Approval of minutes of April 2 **Pam Failing made a motion to table the minutes of April 2 until the next meeting. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of six (6) to zero (0) in favor.**
- 3) Complaints: Dam on Richardson Pond (Steve Kittredge)
Steve Kittredge spoke with John about concerns he has with the dam, specifically the low level of the water in Richardson Pond (for most of the year) as well as with the proliferation of lily pads, and he feels that adjustments need to be made to the dam. John suggested that he speak to Peter Cook as he manages this dam. John will let Peter know that the CC does believe that it would be best to have a higher water level in the pond. DES will be doing dam inspections on Swains, Richardson Pond, and Scruton Pond Road this spring through fall. Pam expressed an interest in attending the dam inspection on Richardson Pond.
- 4) Old Business
 - a) Conservation Projects:
 - i) Renna property – closing expected April 29 PREP (Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership) will give an extra \$1000 toward the Renna project and \$1500 toward the Calef property. Once Renna is acquired it will be officially added to SATWaSR.
 - ii) Cullen Woods property – town has (or soon will) take title to open space
 - iii) “Bumfagging Hill” project (name?): There was discussion of the Bumfagging name for the parcel off Marsh Road. It was decided that this name has a history and could be an appropriate name for the parcel. The Forest Society is pursuing funding.
 - b) Emerald Acres (Topaz Dr.) The culvert replacement project seems to be progressing.
 - c) Forest Management plan for remainder of SATWaSR. Other properties? This was discussed above.
 - d) Standard Dredge and Fill application, work in Ayers Lake for dock construction, Michelle Wilson Stillwater Way. John sent a letter to DES, and let the Ayers Lake Assn. know about it.
 - e) Goals for 2015
 - i) Calef ‘roll-out’ to public, trail work, restoration, etc. John reminded Peter Cook about putting in a parking lot for Calefs.
 - ii) Involve schools – Trails Committee working on trails behind Middle School

5) New Business:

- a) Planning Board
- b) Dredge and Fill applications
 - i) Standard application, stream crossing for revised Gerrior subdivision As an abutter, Alison Desmarais recused herself, but participated as a citizen, The application identifies the stream as an intermittent stream, but Alison and John feel it's a perennial stream. The plans call for installation of a large metal pipe arch culvert. There was discussion about the size of the impact (7075 sf) and the size of the pipe. It was mentioned that this pipe size will allow for full flow and animal crossing.

Ken Grossman made a motion to have John write a letter to DES expressing BCC concerns with the stream being noted as intermittent and not perennial, but also mentioning that the size of the culvert looks adequate and allows for use as an animal crossing, and even though more wetland is impacted, this is a positive trade-off. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of six (6) to zero (0) in favor.

Alison rejoined the group.

- c) Facebook: can only link to Barrington Connections as individuals, not as CC
- d) New watershed map - land behind Middle School The school Superintendent said the preference is that the land behind the Middle School not be shown as open to the public. The next draft of the map is being prepared by the SRPC.
- e) Meeting reports:
 - i) Saving Special Places (Anne, John, Pam) Pam,
 - (1) Anne, and John shared information gathered from attending the keynote address on climate change. A key point was the need to conserve land in order to conserve water. One climate prediction is for less snow, but more big rain events. Conserved land will help to mitigate flooding and also allow for the absorption and storage of water. It was proposed that zoning might want to favor more houses on smaller lots and building up, not out, in order to allow for more conserved land.
 - (2) Pam and John attended a workshop on the issue of allowing forestry operations in wetland buffers and the role they serve in keeping appropriate functioning of the wetland. It was mentioned that the two sides of the cutting or not cutting in buffers issue was presented. John reminded the group that future easements might want to allow for the possibility of cutting in buffers for habitat purposes.
 - (3) Pam attended a workshop by the Fish and Game Dept. on protection of amphibians and reptiles. Fish and Game is able to help towns by providing turtle crossing signs and helping towns plan and manage species of reptiles and amphibians. Susan will use the Barrington Connections facebook page

to solicit public input on turtle crossings so that the crossings can be marked.

(4) Anne covered the workshop on citizen science to connect people to land. This is about increasing the community connection to the land by encouraging public collection of wildlife data. There was a brief discussion on how this might work in Barrington.

ii) Soils Conference (John)

f) Treasurer's report (Pam)

g) Legislative updates (Ken) Ken informed the group that the bill to designate Ham Branch as a Special River and exempt from the Shoreland Protection Act has been removed from consideration. The House budget as passed recommended taking 51 million from the renewable portfolio budget, a designated fund. This will now go to the Senate.

Ken left the meeting at 9:00.

6) Announcements/correspondence:

a) DES:

i) Approval for trail work on Barrington Trail It's necessary to contact landowners along the trail to get reauthorization for the trail.

ii) Dam inspections forthcoming this was discussed above.

b) SPNHF: Easement Stewardship Newsletter

7) Other committees: Trails Committee, BRANCH, IRLAC, ORLAC

8) Easements

9) Next scheduled meeting: May 7

Items remaining on agenda, but not expected to be discussed at this meeting:

a) Conservation Projects:

i) Brookwood Shores property

ii) Cook property

b) Need to hire Mark & Greg Messenger, who built logging road on SATWaSR to a) work on road; b) build parking lot; c) move gate. Excess from project is \$57,150.01.

c) Goals for 2015

i) conservation plan:

ii) proposed changes to zoning, subdivision, etc.

(1) Recommendations about wetland buffers

(2) Aquifer overlay district

Susan Gaudiello made motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Lenzi

NOTE: THESE ARE SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES ONLY. A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MEETING AUDIO IS AVAILABLE AT THE LAND USE DEPARTMENT