

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, December 8, 2010
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

Committee Members Present: Dave Connolly, Art LeClair, Jim Horgan, Kristie Holtz and Randy Orvis

Committee Members Absent: Jon Wood (excused)

Selectmen's Representative: Gerry McCarthy (absent)

Public Present: Neil Johnson, Barry Keith, Rich Gerard, Jim O'Rourke, Samantha Stokes, Danielle Dent, Eric Chamberlain, and Randy Tetreault.

At 6:10pm, Chairman Dave Connolly opened the meeting.

1. Review of Minutes:

Jim Horgan motioned to accept the minutes of 11-10-10 as amended, 2nd Randy Orvis. Motion carried with all in favor.

2. BH Keith:

Dave informed the Board that he went in front of the Selectman for this contract and they approved it on 11-22-10. Mr. Keith informed the Board that they reviewed the French Property management plan and have created a work plan for both properties for the winter and spring. One of the first goals for the French property is to prepare the deer wintering area by select clearing some trees. Jim asked how they would access that section of the property and Mr. Keith explained that they would like to contact the neighboring home owner to see if they could access the property at that section. They also looked at the Woodcock clearing area and they would like to clear the whole area at once and then set the plan to clear it again in 10 years; by choosing this option they could essentially do it at no cost to the town. At the same time they would be looking to clear the land where the parking lot is supposed to be. The whole project should bring approximately \$10,000 in revenue to the town. Art asked how many board feet would be harvested and Mr. Keith said the next step for them is to quantify the board feet and also seek approval from NH Fish and Game, the easement holder.

Dave asked how they plan on incorporating the recreation and hiking trails. Mr. Keith stated they are looking at applying for a Moose Plate Grant in which they could create trails, kiosks, parking areas and a mapping system for both properties at the same time. There are some small grant programs through NH Fish and Game and they would like to apply for these grants to do some stumping in the woodcock clearing area. Mr. Keith asked Randy if he could provide them with a digital copy of the French property

and Randy said yes. He also asked if the Commission could secure an electronic copy of the plan they were provided and Randy said he would try to do this. Lastly, they would appreciate it if a Board member contacted the abutters and/or the Snowmobile Club to see if they would allow access to complete this work. ***Randy Orvis motioned to authorize BH Keith to contact NH Fish and Game to seek approval for the outlined project, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.***

Randy Orvis motioned to schedule a public hearing for the work plan for the French and Dubois properties for January 12, 2011, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.

3. Principal O'Rourke and FHS:

Principal Jim O'Rourke, Samantha Stokes, Danielle Dent and Eric Chamberlain came forward to represent the high school. Dave explained that one of the Conservation Commission goals is to educate the public and thought one part of that would be to include the high school. Dave stated that one part of the education piece is that the Commission would like to change the by-laws to include a non-voting student member of the Commission. There were also discussions on including students and faculty in a number of conservation projects within town, like planting trees and environmental monitoring. Art stated that the Commission is open to hear a number of ideas to how we can get students in town involved. Mr. O'Rourke stated that he would like to go back and have a conversation with Mr. Chamberlain and some students to see if they have enough interest. Mr. Chamberlain, Environmental Teacher, stated he would appreciate getting more information from the Commission on conservation lands and projects so that he can incorporate it into his classroom. Jim stated that there are some new maps coming to town and these might be appropriate for Mr. Chamberlain to review. Mr. O'Rourke also stated that he might be able to set up an Extended Learning Opportunity (EOL) for a student to participate on this Board and would be a great opportunity.

Art stated that the Commission is also considering sponsoring a scholarship for a student who is looking to continue their environmental science education. Dave added that the Commission is also always looking for help with small projects in town and Hay Day education. Mr. O'Rourke stated that he will go back and have some discussions on how they can best move forward and then contact the Board.

4. Norway Plains – Town Forest Survey:

Randy Tetreault of Norway Plains explained that there were a few title issues when they created the boundary survey for the Town Forest. Mr. Tetreault stated that the town should probably enter into a boundary line agreement with Mr. Hayes for both parties protection because of the numerous discrepancies. He then explained that there is

a little piece of land by the Cocheco River crossing and his research brings the parcel back to Mary Spencer Waldron. The deed to this 0.2 acres (now apparently deeded to a Mr. Aaron Fenderson) is questionable. Also, the town line determination posed another issue. They were able to find the three town marker and the Farmington marker but when the town got the original piece the right of way of the existing woods road was not defined. Mr. Tetreault stated that the phrasing in the 1971 documents says “to the road” which is interpreted up to the road and not to the center of the road which would allow for a road easement. There was also a triangular parcel mentioned in this same deed that appears to be owned by Mr. Bowden. Mr. Tetreault contacted Mr. Bowden and he is searching for a title deed but the Commission might want to look into entering a boundary line agreement with Mr. Bowden as well. Mr. Tetreault then gave the Commission copies of the boundary survey plans, the deed research file and plans. In all the property measured at 94.8 acres total.

At 8:10pm, Jim Horgan motioned for a 5 minute recess, 2nd Randy Orvis. Motion carried with Kristie Holtz opposed.

At 8:17pm the Commission reconvened.

5. Old Business

A. Whittum Update – Dave reminded the Commission that they approved up to \$24,522 for the Whittum Easement and so far \$8,000 has been expended. They did provide a draft copy of the deed for the Commission’s review. Dave pointed out the language change pertaining to the scenic view area (section 1.4) and noted it does not seem appropriate. Art agreed and stated it should revert to the original language. Art stated he agrees with the changes to section 1.9. Changes were also proposed to section 3.6. Jim noted that the Commission was told this easement was for 97 acres and now the change shows the conservation area as much less. Art stated that a reasonable compromise would be having parcel A (19.5 acres) left opened with the same language as Easement B. Randy noted that though there are two different parcels the conservation area titles should not be repeated and therefore there shouldn’t be two “conservation area As.” The Commission was also concerned with the language of “prohibiting” access and would like it to read “restrict” instead. It was discussed that they are changing the “rules” of the easement after the Commission agreed to spend the money and the original agreements need to be upheld. Dave will contact Strafford Rivers Conservancy with the Commission’s concerns and will forward a copy of the memo to the Board of Selectman. ***Jim Horgan motioned to not allow the Chairman to authorize any further expenditures until further notice, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.***

B. Board of Selectman 11-22-10 meeting:

1. Dave informed the Commission that the Selectmen approved the 5 year contract for BH Keith. He also asked the interim town administrator if the Commission is able to enter into a multi- year contract and the response was yes.
2. Dave informed the Commission that a few members completed the yearly monitoring report for Energy Resources Group and had a difficult time identifying the boundary line. As a result they have asked Energy Resources Group to complete a boundary survey.

6. New Business:

A. By-laws – Dave provided the members with a revised copy of the by-laws that included the changes discussed at the last meeting. *Randy Orvis motioned to adopt the revised by-laws with the mentioned grammatical changes, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.*

B. FYI –

1. Correspondence was received from Geometres Blue Hills LLC regarding a monitoring report.
2. NHDOT sent an application to install/replace a culvert on Rte. 153. Randy stated that this is not an area of concern for the Commission.

At 9:06pm, Jim Horgan motioned to adjourn, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

Chairman, Dave Connolly