

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 19, 2011
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

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

Committee Members Absent: Jon Wood

Selectmen's Representative: Gerry McCarthy (absent)

Public Present: Neil Johnson, Barry Keith, Don Whittum and Anna Boudreau, Roberta Hampach, Barry Elliot, Michael Boyco, Mrs. Johnson and Peter King

At 6:05pm, Chairman Dave Connolly opened the meeting.

1. Review of Minutes:

Randy Orvis motioned to accept the minutes of 12-8-10 as amended, 2nd Kristie Holtz. Motion carried with all in favor

Randy Orvis motioned to move the Whittum discussion up on the agenda, 2nd Kristie Holtz. Motion carried with all in favor.

2. Whittum Property with Strafford Rivers Conservancy (SRC):

Dave informed the Commission that he met with the Selectman and Anna Boudreau in regards to this easement project and there were still a few concerns regarding the easement document. The Commission reviewed the draft easement with Anna Boudreau of the SRC. It was decided that section 1.2 of the original easement should be placed back in the document and the current section 1.4 should stay as written. Section 1.9 was then reviewed in regards to the public access. Dave noted the entire parcel is 107 acres and the easement is for 98.23 acres. Area A is to be conserved but not public and is 33.3 acres and Area B is to be conserved and open to the public and is 64.8 acres. Randy noted that it is confusing to have two area As and two area Bs and Anna replied that she can rename two of the parcels. Randy asked if the restricted area can allow public access with permission. Anna replied that it is good to have land in conservation and to mandate public access on the entire parcel is a lot to ask. Dave stated that the Commission is spending public tax dollars for this land and should get something in return. Mr. Whittum stated he did not mind allowing public access in the restricted area with permission.

Section 3.10 needs to have a statement added that it will be done pursuant to state and local ordinances and Anna agreed to add this verbiage. It was also decided that

Article 12 from the original easement needs to be added back in. Anna will submit a final copy to the Commission for their review before it goes back to the Selectman for approval.

3. Public Hearing for French Property Work Plan:

Chairman Connolly opened the public hearing at 7:02pm.

Dave explained the purpose of the public hearing is to explain the work plan for the French Property. Rich Gerard of BH Keith explained the work plan has been approved by NH Fish and Game and then proceeded to explain the work plan. The first project is a timber cut and sale which will benefit the forest and its wildlife. Mr. Gerard explained that one hurdle they are trying to solve is where to obtain access to the cutting area and create a log landing area. He proposed an area by the snowmobile trail near the Bisson abutting property or where the parking area is proposed. Mr. Johnson asked how close the proposed parking area is to the Hornetown Road boundary because his home is right there. Mr. Gerard explained the area is approximately 100 feet from the boundary line and the cutting would only take 1-2 weeks total, but the better access area is by the snowmobile trail. Peter King, abutter, noted that the snowmobile trail area has become a dumping area for people's trash, unwanted furniture and appliances. Peter King stated he would like to walk the area with Mr. Gerard but initially he would be willing to allow the logging to come in by his property. Mr. Gerard will set up a time to meet with Mr. King to set-up access. The Commission said it was okay for BH Keith Associates to move forward with the plan.

Chairman Connolly closed the public hearing at 7:34pm.

4. Old Business:

- A. Michael Boyco and Roberta Hampach who owns a property that abuts the Whittum easement. Ms. Hampach received a letter from Mr. Whittum stating that her fence is straddling the property line and she would like more information on what is happening with the Whittum property. Art explained Mr. Whittum is placing his property in a conservation easement which means they will not be building or excavating the property.
- B. **Farmington High School Update** – Dave informed the Commission that they would like to wait a few months before coming back to the meeting because they are very busy with their budgets right now. Mr. O'Rourke forwarded a letter to the Commission that expressed they have several students who are interested in working with the Commission to build a collaborative relationship.
- C. **Norway Plains Bill** – Dave reported that a bill in the amount of \$4,634.25 was received from Norway Plains for the surveying of all four town forest parcels.

5. New Business:

- A. New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions** – Randy informed the members that this Commission was a member in the past. There are no direct benefits of being a member except that we would be paying towards the materials they give out for free. The cost of the membership is \$250. The Commission was in agreement that this membership is not necessary at this time.
- B. Moose Mountain Regional Greenways** – Dave reported that he received a letter requesting membership dues in the amount of \$100. *Kristie Holtz motioned to authorize the Chair to create the purchase order to pay the \$100 for the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways membership, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.*
- C. Town Report** – The Commission reviewed Dave’s draft town report article for the Commission. (Jim Horgan arrived at 8:04pm.) *Jim Horgan motioned to accept the town report as amended, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.*
- D. Bill from BH Keith** – Dave read the itemized bill from BH Keith for a total of \$1780. *Jim Horgan motioned to authorize the Chair to have this bill from BH Keith paid, 2nd Kristie Holtz. Motion carried with all in favor.*
- E.** Barry Elliott, representing Cameron’s Home and Garden, stated that Camerons holds a 3 acre parcel that abuts a town conservation parcel and they would like to have a discussion with the Commission to see if they would be interested in trading the property (R50, lot 45) for the small road that runs along the front of their property. The Commission agreed they would like to have this discussion and would be interested in the property. This discussion will be held on February 9, 2011.

6. FYI

- A.** Dave read the approved NHDES wetland application for 436 Sheepboro Road, along with a wetland restoration plan for Labrador Road and a letter for 606 Ten Rod Road that stated the deficiencies have been corrected.

At 8:22pm, Kristie Holtz motioned to adjourn, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

Revised and accepted 2-9-11

Chairman, Dave Connolly