

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 13, 2011
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

Committee Members Present: Dave Connolly, Art LeClair, Kathy Spangler, Scott Kobbe and Randy Orvis

Committee Members Absent: Kristie Holtz

Selectmen's Representative: Jim Horgan

Public Present: Neil Johnson, Mr. Chamberlain (FHS science teacher), Danielle Dent, Michael Dent and Rich Gerard

At 6:00pm, Chairman Dave Connolly opened the meeting.

1. Review of Minutes:

Jim Horgan motioned to accept the minutes of 3-16-11 as amended, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried.

2. BH Keith Update:

Rich Gerard of BH Keith and Associates was present to answer any of the Commission's questions. A third bill was presented to the Commission today for their administrative work. The total gross revenue payment from the timber cutting was \$11,115.25. Mr. Gerard also presented a report of possible grants that he found are available for the Commission to apply for. One of the grants from NH Fish and Game looks very promising and would cost the Commission \$500 for the application work by BH Keith and Associates. This grant would be to restore the woodcock signing area and possibly open doors for other grants once they visit the site.

Mr. Gerard stated they would recommend doing the boundary line maintenance for the Dubois (partial) and French properties along with the grant research discussed tonight. Dave noted that a letter should go out to abutters before the Dubois boundary line is maintained so they are aware of the activity. Art stated that he feels the boundary marking can be done more cost effectively. Jim disagreed stating he feels it would be money well spent because it would be done correctly and he especially would like to see the French property projects complete including boundary marking and trail blazing and mapping. *Kathy Spangler motioned to authorize BH Keith Associates to do the boundary maintenance on the French Property only for a total cost of \$1500 to \$2000, 2nd Scott Kobbe. Motion carried with Art LeClair opposed.*

Randy Orvis motioned to authorize BH Keith Associates to meet with NH Fish and Game and WMI and start the application process for the grant for the French Property wildlife management with the cost to not exceed \$500, 2nd Art LeClair. Discussion followed where Dave asked if it would be beneficial to have members of the Commission present when the site walk occurs with Fish and Game and Mr. Gerard replied it would be a good idea and he would notify Dave when the date was set. *Motion carried with all in favor.*

The Board discussed that when the trails on the French property are marked they would like to present so that they can provide feedback to the trail positioning. Mr. Gerard replied he would be happy to have members present. It was also noted by several members that they would like BH Keith and Associates to try harder not to duplicate efforts and try to do as many things as they can when in the field in order to keep the cost down. Mr. Gerard explained he would like to GPS the parking lot and approximate trails for the French property. Many members noted they would like to walk the property and determine for themselves first where they might like the trails and points of interest on the property.

3. Hay Day Update:

Art presented the Commission with his idea of sponsoring a 5K race on Hay Day. This would facilitate community participation, attract people from outside of town and raise funds for the Commission to provide scholarships to students studying a field of environmental education. It was discussed that this was a good idea and a possible loop up Hornetown Road, down River Road and then back downtown was suggested. *Dave Connolly motioned to authorize Art LeClair to go to the Selectmen's meeting on May 9th and present the 5K race, 2nd Randy Orvis. Motion carried with Art LeClair abstaining.*

Scott suggested taking the trees that Kathy said she had to donate at the last meeting and place them on a large trailer to decorate. Art suggested maybe raffling off the trees at the table and maybe doing a 50/50 raffle. Kathy stated that she also has some perennial bulbs to donate.

4. Old Business:

A. Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) – Dave presented some information he received from the VRAP and noted they have a workshop on May 14, 2011 and all Commission members are welcome to attend.

5. Design of Brochure – Dave gave the members copy of the current brochure and asked them to review it and jot down any ideas they might have for changes to a brochure that

6. **T-shirts/Ball caps** – Dave reported that he received a design and cost for embroidered hats or shirts. The hats would be \$15 and the hats would be \$12. Kathy suggested having screen-printed t-shirts for the ones that the Commission would like to give away to volunteers. Members liked the design and agreed to purchase 12 embroidered shirts but will wait to purchase any others until numbers are confirmed. Mr. Johnson stated he felt the Commission should stick with the same type of shirts for themselves and their volunteers. The Commission then decided Dave should investigate the costs of both styles of shirts and bring the information back next month.
7. **Security Cameras** – Dave explained he contacted the company for the cameras (Telecom) that monitor the conservation properties and they offered a \$50 discount for each camera. He also is exploring other avenues for prices.
8. **BH Keith Associates Invoice** – *Randy Orvis motioned to authorize payment of \$450 for BH Keith Associates for administrative costs, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.*
9. **Other** – Jim noted that he heard on the news this morning about a walking trail that was named for a fallen soldier and thought the commission should think about this when creating their new walking trails.

At 8:21pm, Jim Horgan motioned to adjourn, 2nd Kathy Spangler. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

Chairman, Dave Connolly