

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, June 8, 2011  
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

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

**Committee Members Absent:** Kristie Holtz and Kathy Spangler

**Selectmen's Representative:** Jim Horgan

**Public Present:** Neil Johnson, Recreation Director Rick Conway and Tom Magruder

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

**1. Review of Minutes:**

*Jim Horgan motioned to accept the minutes of 5-11-11 as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> Randy Orvis. Motion carried.*

**2. Hay Day Update:**

Rick Conway, Recreation Director, explained he would be interested in putting in a joint effort for a certified run for the 2012 Hay Day. It was discussed that the fire station would be the ideal beginning and end for such a race. Rick further explained that the Hay Day advertising goes in the spring recreation department brochure in March and therefore he would need the race information regarding registration deadlines and start times for February printing. (Hay Day is always the last weekend of August.)

Art then explained that his back-up plan for the 2011 Hay Day is to set up a floral/fauna hands-on exhibit and he is also getting kits from NH Fish and Game for matching furs to skulls. Local Fish and Game Officer Colonel Hansom will be requested to be on-site. The Commission then discussed that they would like two centrally located spots this year and Rick explained that the central spots generally go to the vendors who purchase their spots and if the Commission wanted to purchase spots they would be \$25 a piece. *Jim Horgan motioned to pay \$50 for Hay Day spaces, 2<sup>nd</sup> Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.*

Art explained he anticipates needing four tables and a canopy on Hay Day. Dave asked what Art had in mind for give aways and Art replied he is not sure what type of give away to have for the public but he would like to have a few small prizes for the fur to skull matching. Scott suggested the Commission look into purchasing bumper stickers that resemble the Commission's land labels/signs. Dave will inquire about the cost of bumper stickers and Art suggested adding the words "Conserve-Protect-Educate" to the

logo. The Commission's brochure was then discussed and Randy will try to get a small map to put on the brochure for the next meeting. Art suggested listing facts about the Commission instead of thanking families for the conservation land.

**3. Resident Discussion:**

Tom Magruder of 41 Branson Road explained that he has some water pooling on his property due to a dam that his previous neighbor installed in 2004. Dave asked what recourse Mr. Magruder has taken and he replied that in 2005 he contacted the Code Enforcement Officer and then the NH Wetlands Bureau but their response was that the area was not considered wetlands so they had no jurisdiction. Mr. Magruder explained the neighbor's home has since been foreclosed on and is now owned by the bank. The Commission suggested Mr. Magruder contact the bank and try to work out a plan to remove the dam to prevent the pooling.

***At 8:22pm, Jim Horgan motioned for a short recess, 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Kobbe. Motion carried with all in favor.***

**At 8:37pm the Board reconvened.**

**4. Technical Review Committee:**

Dave informed the Commission that he attended a Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting to review two applications; one for Mr. Huckins' subdivision and one for David Haycock who is proposing a logging operation. For the Huckins' property there were no concerns because he is just subdividing out a house lot. On the Haycock property there are several wetlands that are in dispute regarding their classification and the applicant is filing an appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Dave will submit a report to the planner that the Commission has no concerns at this time for either application.

**5. Old Business:**

**A. French Property Site Walk** – Dave reported that he, Jim and Randy met with Julie Robinson of NH Fish and Game, John Lanier who is a registered biologist with the Wildlife Institute and Barry Keith to investigate possible grant funding for projects on the French property. Mr. Lanier would like to see some more work done in the Woodcock Management Area and that the Commission could do a lot better than what the plan calls for. Julie is going to do a report to NH Fish and Game so the Commission will be eligible for a \$2000 Fish and Game grant. At a minimum Mr. Lanier suggested cutting some fingers in the woodcock management area.

**B. Town Forest** – Dave explained that he spoke to the Society of Protection of NH Forest regarding the right-of-way in the Town Forest as discussed at the previous meeting and it is currently being worked on. He also spoke with the town

- administrator about the title issues for the small piece of property Randy Tetreault of Norway Plains pointed out and that is being worked on as well. Lastly, a certified letter was sent to the property owner from Ohio, regarding the establishment of the boundary line on the Lawrence section.
- C. Cameras** – Dave explained the Commission currently uses the Spypoint IRC but the same company has currently come out with a new Bloodline camera. Kristie researched the cost and found them online for \$179 but Brian’s Archery sells the same camera and will give the Commission a 10% discount if two are purchased which would make them \$179. *Jim Horgan motioned to authorize Dave to purchase two Bloodline cameras locally, 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Kobbe.* Discussion followed where Dave said he will also need to purchase two boxes, SD cards, locks and batteries. *Jim amended his motion to authorize Dave to expend up to \$600 for two cameras and the appropriate accessories, 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Kobbe. Motion carried with all in favor.*
- D. Shirts** – Dave reported he was able to purchase 36 t-shirts for \$330.22 (instead of \$400). Art will take the shirts home and hold them until Hay Day when they will be distributed to volunteers.
- E. Volunteer River Assessment Program** – Scott reported that he and Kathy Spangler attended the training and learned how to do the river testing. However, the woman who has the testing kit for the Cocheco River has not contacted them for follow-up testing. Dave will contact her and find out why she has not been in touch with Scott or Kathy.
- F. Other** – Dave reported he attended a Planning Board public hearing regarding an expansion project by Energy Resources Group. Jim stated that the project has since been withdrawn but the easement boundary needs to be clearly flagged.
- G. Whittum Conservation Easement Update** – Dave informed the Commission that he contacted Anna Boudreau of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy for an update on the Whittum easement and she said there is a hold up with Mr. Whittum and his bank. Art asked how much the Commission has expended on this project thus far and Dave replied \$1200 for the survey. Art suggested Dave contact Anna again and ask her for a written update on the project.
- 6. New Business** –
- A. Possible Conservation Donation** – Dave reported that Paul Sullivan would like to donate his 12 acre parcel (Map R10-20) that is a landlocked parcel across the street from the landfill entrance. The parcel does include a right-of-way easement through the road front property and borders AJ Foss and the Cocheco River. Randy said there is no potential development for this parcel and it will also cost the Commission money for the ownership transfer and the monitoring so it might not be in the Commission’s favor to obtain this parcel. Jim suggested the Commission take a

further look at the parcel and then have a discussion with the landowner on the logistics before making a final decision. Dave will invite Mr. Sullivan to a future meeting.

- B. **BH Keith Invoice** – *Jim Horgan motioned to pay the \$395 May invoice from BH Keith and Associates, 2<sup>nd</sup> Randy Orvis. Motion carried with all in favor.*
- C. The Commission reviewed their operating budget and it was noted there is still over \$3000 in the fund. Also \$3130 (plus the just approved \$395) has been spent thus far for the French property management and the revenue is \$8,422.61
- D. Next meeting is July 13, 2011.

*Jim Horgan motioned to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Randy Orvis. Motion carried with all in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

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Chairman, Dave Connolly