

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 12, 2011
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

Committee Members Present: Dave Connolly, Art LeClair, Kathy Spangler, Scott Kobbe
Randy Orvis (arrived at 8:30pm) and Neil Johnson

Selectmen's Representative: Jim Horgan

Public Present: Stan Freeda, Rich Gerard, Dylan Bilodeau, Bob Olberg,
Mrs. Gurick, Richard Ballou, Mr. Gurick, Felicia Taylor
and Steve Walker

At 6:02pm, Chairman Dave Connolly opened the meeting and seated alternate Neil Johnson.

1. Review of Minutes:

Art LeClair motioned to accept the minutes of 8-10-11 as written, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with Neil Johnson abstaining.

2. FHS Yearbook:

Representatives of the FHS Yearbook Committee showed the Commission a copy of the ad the Commission paid for in last year's yearbook and asked if the Commission would like to do this again. The cost for the full page ad is \$295 minus 10% for a cost of \$265.50. The Commission was in agreement that they would like to sponsor an ad again this year and asked the students to forward a proof of the ad before printing. *Art LeClair motioned to purchase a full page ad in the FHS Yearbook, 2nd Kathy Spangler. Motion carried with all in favor.*

3. Community Garden:

Jim Horgan motioned to move this item up on the agenda, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor. Stan Freeda, of the Farmington Democrats, explained that he visited the proposed site (the water tower area between the high school and Bay Road) with several other people and they feel it would be a suitable place for a community garden. Jim explained that he would recommend the area directly outside the fenced area of the water tower for the garden because it would require the least amount of work to prepare. Kathy suggested using water barrels/ catch basins for water. Mr. Freeda explained that he would suggest the fenced in area because it would keep the animals out. *Jim Horgan motioned to authorize Dave Connolly to write a letter of support for the community garden to the Selectmen, 2nd Kathy Spangler. Motion carried with all in favor.*

4. Old Business:

A. **Strafford Community Conservation District (SCCD)** – Dave reminded the Commission that Bambi Miller attended a meeting several months ago asking the Commission to assist with funding of the SCCD. Art stated that he does not feel it is the Commission responsibility to support the SCCD in the form of giving the money out of the budget when they get tax money from the County. Several members agreed with Art. *Art LeClair motioned to not extend the Commission funds to financially support the Strafford Community Conservation District but to support them with work that the Commission may require in the future by utilizing their services, 2nd Kathy Spangler. Motion carried with all in favor.*

6:30pm – Public Hearing for Dubois Property

5. Public Hearing –

Rich Gerard explained that he is a licensed forester working with BH Keith and Associates that has been hired by the Commission to create a foresting plan for the Dubois property utilizing the Forest Management Plan on file. The logging they are proposing will be done during the winter months so as to not damage the sensitive soils or areas. Mrs. Gurick asked for the plan to be in writing with a particular note stating that the access road will be returned to its original form or better and also a private way sign should be installed on Dubois Lane. She also suggested the boundaries be clearly marked. Steve Walker of NH Fish and Game, who monitors the Dubois Property, questioned if the snowmobile trails can be clearly mapped with the appropriate right-of-ways for documentation purposes. Mr. Gerard suggested closing off the unmarked top trail to keep the snowmobiles on the correct trail.

Mr. Walker stated that NH Fish and Game is glad that the town has hired BH Keith to manage this property as they have worked with them on several other projects and they do have good job. Art commented back to Mr. Walker that it would be helpful if NH Fish and Game could forward any resources as to what good forestry looks like so when residents come in to speak against forest management the Commission has resources to show them. Mr. Walker replied that he will forward any information that he has but also would suggest the Commission keep the lines of communication open with the public and that will be the best way to educate. Kathy cautioned Mr. Gerard to remind the truckers that during a 7am start time there will be school buses on the road and Mr. Gerard to note.

Art LeClair motioned to allow BH Keith Associates to continue with their work plan as proposed, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.

Dave closed the public hearing at 7:05pm.

6. Discussion with BH Keith Re: French Property:

Dave informed the Commission that he received a letter from Julie Robinson stating the commission was awarded a \$2,000 NH Fish and Game grant for the enhancement of the woodcock area in the French Property. Mr. Gerard stated the next step is to flag out the fingers for the logger and work out the specifics for the cost. Dave asked Mr. Gerard when he expects to move forward with the blazing of trails and kiosks. Mr. Gerard explained there are some costs involved because a small excavator will be required and he can put together estimates if the Commission is ready. Steve Walker suggested the Commission keep their trails and kiosks as simple as possible with the least amount of infrastructure to begin with. The Commission requested that Mr. Gerard put together an estimate for the trails and parking area as well as a trail plan.

Dave asked how the access road will be upgraded and Mr. Gerard stated it would require some gravel. Dave will contact Scott Hazelton, DPW Director to see if there is gravel available.

At 7:42pm, *Jim Horgan motioned for a short recess, 2nd Dave Connolly. Motion carried with all in favor.*

At 7:52pm the Commission reconvened.

7. Old Business:

A. Whittum Project Update – Dave requested an update from Anna Boudreau and received an update that Mr. Whittum is making progress with the bank as of September 20, 2011. Art stated that a lesson learned from this project is the money should not be appropriated to conservation projects until all liens are taken care of and a plan is finalized. Dave added that money should not be appropriated to a draft or template plan either. The Commission discussed that a deadline will need to be established in the near future.

B. Town Forest – The Society for New Hampshire Forests have drafted the easement required and is awaiting approval from Strafford Regional Planning. Dave is also waiting for Randy Orvis to get him the last page of the boundary line agreement for the Hayes property.

8. New Business:

A. Letter of Resignation – Dave read a letter of resignation by Kristie Holtz. Dave Connolly motioned to accept the letter of resignation by Kristie Holtz with regret, 2nd Neil Johnson. Motion carried with all in favor.

B. Land Conservation Workshop – Art explained that the Strafford Rivers Conservancy will be holding a workshop on November 9, 2011 and have asked Art to

- speak about forestry practices at their workshop. Dave suggested he take the Commission's photo album, display board and management plan for one of the town's properties with him and invited all members to attend if they are able. **Jim Horgan motioned to reschedule the November meeting to the 16th, 2nd Kathy Spangler. Motion carried with all in favor.**
- C. Cub Scout Request** – Dave received a request from a Cub Scout leader asking if the Commission would be willing to come to their meeting and explain what conservation is and what they can do to help. Art will work on put together a short curriculum that can be used for such a presentation. He also stated he thinks it would be a great idea for the Commission to put on workshops where they bring in people to teach the public about conservation, water quality, etc. Dave will let the cub scouts know the Commission is interested and willing to do such a presentation.
- D. ERG(Energy Resources Group) Easement Monitoring** – Dave informed the Commission that town has a conservation easement on the ERG property and an annual monitoring report needs to be filed for the property. A site walk was scheduled for October 18th at 4pm tentatively.
- E. DOT Rte. 11 Project** – A safety project is being planned for Rte. 11 and NH DOT requested some information from the Commission. The Commission discussed the questionnaire.
- F. By-Laws** – Dave informed the members that if they would like to suggest any changes to the by-laws they will be needed in writing for the next meeting.
- G. Term Expirations** – Dave informed Art that his term will be up in 2012 so he will need to fill the paperwork back out in the near future.
- H. Budget** – Dave suggested asking for the same dollar amount as this year though he has heard that the Selectmen may cut the budget. It will be discussed in further detail at the next meeting.
- I. BH Keith Invoice** – Dave reviewed the latest invoice from BH Keith Associates for \$1,364. Jim Horgan motioned to pay the invoice for \$1364 for BH Keith Associates, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.
- J.** An invoice for \$382.85 from the Society for Protection of Land Forest with \$210 of that amount being for staff time to review the right-of-way easement in the town forest. **Art LeClair motioned to pay the invoice, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.**

At 8:43pm, Neil Johnson motioned to adjourn, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Revised and accepted

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

Chairman, David Connolly