

**Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday- November 16, 2011
356 Main Street – Farmington, NH**

Members Present: Dave Connolly, Jim Horgan, Art LeClair, Randy Orvis, Scott Kobbe, Kathy Spangler and Richard Ballou

Public Present: Neil Johnson, Bill Spears, Jason Scruton and Chris Berry

At 6:03pm, Chairman Dave Connolly opened the public meeting.

1. Review of October Minutes:

Jim Horgan motioned to approve the minutes of October 12, 2011 as amended, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried with Jim Horgan (yes), Richard Ballou (abstain), Art LeClair (yes), Dave Connolly (yes), Randy Orvis (abstain), Scott Kobbe (yes), and Kathy Spangler (yes).

2. Review & Comment/Coppola PT/R20-7:

Chris Berry of Berry Surveying and Engineering explained that he is here tonight representing Steve Coppola who is trying to open a physical therapy office on Rte. 11. As part of the application they need a Special Use Permit because they are within 100ft. of the Cocheco River to add a small 600 sq. ft. addition to the building. They are proposing all the appropriate sedimentary controls, updating the septic and are not increasing the impervious surfaces except for the addition. Approval from the wetlands bureau has been received and the septic design is currently awaiting approval. The Commission has no concerns with the project but would like best management practices followed.

3. Mr. Spears/Union St. Ice Skating Rink / U5-123:

Bill Spears explained that he would like to return the small pond on Union St to a nice skating rink for the winter. He would like to cut back the brush and then possibly have the fire department do a control surface burn so the pond water will freeze. The Commission agreed this would be a great idea but it is out of their jurisdiction and needs to go to the Selectmen. Sounds like great use of property and maybe the Rec. Department can even partner up on the project. It was also noted that there is an RSA that releases the town of liability if someone was to get hurt.

4. Strafford County Conservation District (SCCD)/ Scruton:

Jason Scruton presented a proposal to update a surface water treatment system under the advisement of NRCS. This area is to treat the milk house waste from Scruton's Dairy and is between the barn and Camelot Shore Drive. The plan is to clean the surface water retention areas and then upgrade the system with new technology. Art stated that he feels confident moving forward with the project knowing it has been engineered by NRCS.

Randy Orvis motioned to authorize Dave Connolly to sign the project application, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.

At 6:45pm, Jim Horgan motioned for a short recess, 2nd Randy Orvis. Motion carried with all in favor.

At 6:53pm the Commission came back into session.

5. Old Business:

A. Dubois Lane – Dave announced that Barry Keith created a Dubois Lane Right Of Way agreement and the Selectmen approved the timber cutting. Dave also stated that he noticed the Dubois Lane street sign does not say private on it and a big concern of the abutters is that the public will not know that this is a private road and might access the right of way when they shouldn't. Dave suggested purchasing a new street sign that says private way since the Commission is a property owner on the road. *Jim Horgan motioned to authorize Dave Connolly to purchase a private rd sign if possible or a Dubois Lane – Private way sign at a cost not to exceed \$100 based on the fact that the town owns property on the road, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.*

B. ERG Site Walk Results – Dave reported that several members visited ERG on October 18, 2011 and found that last year's concern of the poorly marked southwest boundary is now clearly defined. No new issues/concerns were identified this year and Dave will forward the monitoring report.

C. Town Forest Update – Dave reported that the easement has been approved and filed at the Strafford County Registry of Deeds. Also a new lock was put on the gate and appropriate copies of the key have been distributed. Dave also contacted Mr. Lawrence and the boundary dispute/negotiation is moving forward.

D. Pike Industries/Paulson Road Update – Dave reported that Pike Industries hired a contractor to close the hole and they opened it for some reason so the State has been notified and will be addressing the issue.

E. Whittum Update – Mr. Whittum forwarded a letter to the Commission to update them on what he is doing with the project. The Commission noted they are very thankful for the update and was pleased to receive the communication. Art stated that now that the Commission is aware of the situation he feels the Commission should be patient to allow the project to move forward but at a minimum bi-monthly updates would be appreciated. Dave will forward a letter in response thanking them for the update.

F. Review Workshop – Dave commented that he enjoyed the workshop last week, made some new contacts and learned some new things. Jim commented that he was impressed by the workshop and the amount of resources that were available.

G. By-Law Proposals – Dave asked if any of the members had any proposals to review and there was none.

H. Budget – Dave stated he would like to recommend keeping the same budget as 2011. Art asked if any current use funds have come in and Dave said yes, in June \$15,000 was received. There is currently almost \$110,000 in the Conservation fund. *Jim Horgan motioned to request \$4,577 for the 2012 budget to keep in line with the 2011 budget, 2nd Randy Orvis. Motion carried with all in favor.*

I. Road Race with Rec. Department – Dave said that Rick Conway the Rec. Director is still interested in planning a road race with the Commission. Brandy stated that the Downtown & Business Committee would also like to assist with such a race. Art will contact Rick.

6. New Business:

A. Smith Property R51-003 – Dave informed the Commission that the gate on the Smith property was damaged and the Commission is responsible for maintaining the gate. Jim has agreed to help repair the gate and will also put a new lock on the gate that will be keyed the same as the Town Forest gate.

B. UNH Cooperative Extension Workshop – Dave forwarded a copy of a workshop the Co-op is holding in December if any of the members would/can attend.

C. Randy stated that a possible wetlands violation on Ten Rod Road was reported to him and he will notify the Code Enforcement Office.

D. Art stated that he believes the Commission needs to look into the cost of an outside agency monitoring our easements because the Commission members do not have the expertise or time to do the parcels justice. The Commission was in agreement and this discussion will be placed on the December agenda.

7. FYI:

A. BHK Invoice – Dave reported a bill from 9-30-11 to 10-30-11 from BH Keith was received for \$779. *Jim Horgan motioned to pay the BH Keith bill for \$779, 2nd Randy Orvis. Motion carried with all in favor.*

B. Restoration Plan Approval - The Stated has approved a restoration plan for the Farmington Country Club. The surveyors and engineers filed an after the fact permit because date deadlines are not able to be met.

C. December's meeting is scheduled for the 14th and BH Keith is scheduled to come in for a year end report. Art stated he would like them to send their report in writing and not attend a meeting because it costs money for them to come to a meeting. The Commission was in favor.

Amended and accepted 12-14-11

Randy Orvis motioned to adjourn at 7:43pm, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger
Recording Secretary