

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 8, 2012
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

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

Committee Members Absent: Richard Ballou (excused) and Randy Orvis

Selectmen's Representative: Jim Horgan

At 6:02pm, Chairman Dave Connolly opened the meeting and welcomed new member Laura Beard

1. Review of Minutes:

Jim Horgan motioned to accept the minutes of 1-11-12 as amended, 2nd Kathy Spangler Motion carried with Randy Orvis abstaining.

2. NH F & G CO Ron Arsenault:

Dave Connolly motioned to move this item later in the agenda to give Mr. Arsenault time to arrive, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.

3. Budget Public Hearing 2-15-12:

Dave informed the Commission that he presented the budget to the Budget Committee and their only concern was on the secretary line. The public hearing is scheduled for 2-15-12 and all town residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

4. Town Forest Recon w/ Moose Mountain Regional Greenways:

Dave informed the Commission that MMRG is planning a snow shoe walk with Sally Cornwall through the Farmington Town Forest on February 26, 2012 from 1-3pm.

5. Old Business:

A. Cub Scouts – Dave explained that he spoke with Pat Colson, one of the Den leaders and the best date for them for the presentation is going to be March 7th at the American Legion at 6:15pm. Laura and Art will come up with an activity to present.

B. Cameras – Dave informed the Commission that he and Jim installed the four new cameras and had to remove one of the older cameras because it was not working properly. Dave will investigate the “broken” camera and see what is wrong with it.

C. Public Forum 4-18-12 – The public forum is scheduled for April 18, 2012. Art stated he would talk about his experience of putting property into conservation and has asked several of his neighbors to participate and they agreed to help. Art will interview the Maynards and the Fernalds and then put together a Power Point presentation about all their experiences. Art is also speaking to Mr. Leary about participating in this forum also. Dave stated that Kari from MMRG has contacted Phil Auger and he would love to come and speak for a fee (\$100-\$300 depending on the presentation). Art stated that Mr. Auger's presentations are really good and would be worth his fee and Dave added that MMRG is willing to pay half the fee. *Jim Horgan motioned to approve the expenditure of up to \$150 for a presentation by Phil Auger, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried with Randy Orvis abstaining.*

Dave stated he has compiled a list of fifty landowners who own ten or more acres that would be suitable for conservation to send a flyer to for the forum. Art suggested asking two students from the high school yearbook committee to help run a sign in desk at the forum since the Commission purchases an ad in the yearbook each year. MMRG will provide refreshments and organize the event. Dave is also going to contact Keith Fletcher and Barry Keith to see if they would be willing to participate in the forum.

D. Dubois/French Update – Dave informed the Commission that the logging operation will be complete today or tomorrow and the Dubois parcel looks great. BH Keith has not completed the work at the French property because the landing is too wet and muddy but they will go back out when it gets drier. Dave also asked Barry Keith about the grant for the woodcock enhancement area and he said he does not expect a problem and the project will be completed as soon as the ground is frozen. Next Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012 at 10am Barry Keith, Rich Gerard, NH Fish and Game and Dave will go up to do a site walk on the Dubois/French properties for the annual inspection.

Dave stated he did order and receive the Dubois Lane private sign (cost was \$53) and the DPW will install it in the spring. Art asked for a copy of the timber slips and Dave replied he has not received them yet. Jim suggested inviting the abutters up to the two properties to show them the work that has been completed.

6. NH Fish and Game Officer Ron Arsenault:

Ron explained that he is the local Conservation Officer and wanted to open up the lines of communication between himself and the Commission. Dave asked him to explain what his role is regarding the conservation parcels. Ron explained that he enforces all Fish and Game laws including hunting, fishing, trapping, baiting, snowmobiling and ATV use. He explained that in order to bait or trap on town owned property a person would need to apply for a permit through the Selectmen.

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Art explained that one of the Commission's concerns is the use of ATVs and four wheel drive vehicles on Blue Job and Little Blue Job Mountains because they are causing a lot of destructive erosion. Ron stated that he spoke with Dave and showed him how to set up the cameras to get a plate number and he would certainly follow up with any reports. Art then told Ron that the town sponsors Hay Day on August 25th and the Commission would love to have him participate that day.

7. Other:

A. Dave explained that the DPW created an estimate to repair the Waldron sign that was damaged in a car accident. The amount was \$750 and Dave forwarded the estimate to the Police Department.

B. Whittum Project – Dave reported that Mr. Whittum is still working with the bank and will keep the Commission posted.

C. Legislature – Dave reported that HB 15-15 was voted down and will not move forward. This proposed bill would have limited what Conservation Commission could do by taking away the conservation fund monies.

D. Intent to Cuts – Dave explained that all the Intent to Cuts will be filed in the Commission's file cabinet for all members to review when at their pleasure. An Intent to cut for R58 lot 9, on Ridge Road was just received this month to cut 25,000 board feet of hemlock and pine.

E. Laura explained that both she and Rich attend a recent workshop on rare plants that was very informative.

8. MMRG Dues:

Randy Orvis motioned to pay the \$100 yearly dues to Moose Mountain Regional Greenways, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.

9. March Meeting Date:

Dave Connolly motioned to move the March meeting date to March 21, 2012, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.

At 7:21pm, Neil Johnson motioned to adjourn, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

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Chairman, David Connolly