

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 21, 2012
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

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

Selectmen's Representative: Jim Horgan

At 6:02pm, Chairman Dave Connolly opened the meeting.

1. Review of Minutes:

Neil Johnson motioned to accept the minutes of 2-8-12 as amended, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with Randy Orvis abstaining.

2. Landfill Wetland Application:

Matthew Cardin of Normandeau Associates explained that he worked with CMA Engineers to design a mitigation plan for the capping of the town landfill. Using aerial photos of the past and present and soil borings they have determined that there is 0.41 acres of wetland at the landfill that the town has filled over the years. Tonight he would like the Conservation Commission to review their “after the fact” plan and make a comment to the Selectmen of any concerns they might have. The Cocheco River Advisory Committee also reviewed this application and recommends the project. *Jim Horgan motioned to have the chair forward a letter of recommendation to NHDES, 2nd Kathy Spangler. Motion carried with all in favor.*

3. Old Business:

A. Dave reported that on February 16, 2012 a few of the committee members met with BH Keith Associates and Ms. Boisvert to do the easement monitoring for the French and Dubois properties. Dave further checked to make sure the grant for the habitat conservation will stay in place because the project did not occur since there was no real “winter” this year and the answer was yes.

B. A Timber Revenue report was given to the members for the forest management on the Dubois property. Only about 40% of the project was able to be cut also because of the lack of a “real winter.”

C. Art reported that he and Laura went to the Cub Scout meeting and they had a great time with the kids. Art brought in tree cookies and taught the scouts how to identify trees and how old they are. Laura led an activity called “met a forest” where the kids pulled items out of a bag and

discussed how the items were related to the forest. This was a great project to allow the Commission to “educate” the community.

D. Kathy informed the commission that the Community Garden is on hold because they have not established a full plan yet. Jim stated that Scott Hazelton is planning on taking some trees down up there in the next week.

E. Jim participated in the MMRG Snowshoe Walk on 2-26-12 and they had a good time and saw a lot of different tracks.

F. The budget of \$3,900 passed.

G. On April 18, 2012 Moose Mountain Regional Greenways (MMRG) is co-sponsoring a free land conservation workshop with the Commission from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Kari requested a screen, projector and laptop. Keith Fletcher from MMRG, Phil Auger, Anna Boudreau from Strafford Rivers Conservancy and Art LeClair will be presenting. Light refreshments will be provided. The boyscouts will help set-up and breakdown the event. Dave will send out flyers for the event to fifty landowners in town.

H. A thank you letter from MMRG was received for our contribution of the yearly dues.

I. Art asked for an update on the Whittum Easement and Dave replied that he has not heard anything new since February.

J. Dave commented that he has not received any responses from the high school regarding their involvement in the Commission. Dave sent a letter to the high school principal via the school superintendant regarding his disappointment in the lack of communication and participation this week.

4. New Business:

A. There are several trees at Fernald Park that need to be removed because they are dead and unsafe. The money for the replacement of the trees was cut from the DPW budget and Dave stated he would like to see the Commission replace the trees on Earth or Arbor Day. Dave contacted Cameron’s and they would be willing to help financially with the purchase of the trees and they are currently looking for the best prices for the Commission. Dave is looking at planting on Friday, April 27, 2012 and Cameron’s stated that the most they would expect the trees to cost is \$200 per tree. The DPW will remove the four trees at Fernald Park. ***Jim Horgan motioned to authorize the chairman to purchase four sugar or red maple trees for a sum to not exceed \$800, 2nd Kathy Spangler. Motion carried with all in favor.***

B. Dave reviewed the Intent to Cuts with the Commission. R 50, Lot 27 on Hornetown Rd. had an application but it will be put on hold; this was for 24,000 to 30,000 on board feet of timber. R7-1 on Meaderboro Rd also has an application to remove 10,000 board feet of timber. R31-

028-03 on Meetinghouse Hill Road has an application to remove 300 tons of chips. R52-2 on Bay Rd. had an application but the project is already complete. R51 lot 11 and 12 on River and Hornetown Roads has an application to remove 40,000 board feet and cord wood.

C. Rodney Thompson of Meaderboro Road explained that he has interest in the history of town lines, particularly the Farmington/New Durham town line because it runs through his property. There are twelve monuments between Farmington and New Durham and has recommend to the Selectmen that there be some effort to document the monuments. The law actually requires the town provide a documentation of the monuments every seven years though it is hardly ever enforced. Mr. Thompson would like to suggest establishing the corners first with GPS coordinates, then the ones close to the roads and lastly the monuments off the road. The Commission was in consensus that they would be interested in the project and Randy stated he might be able to get some surveyors from the Land Surveyors Association to help. The Commission will discuss the project more in depth on April 11, 2012.

Mr. Thompson then explained that he has mapped the 5 miles of stone wall and streams on his property using a GPS and camera and would be willing to teach the Commission members how he did so. Art stated that he would be really interested in Mr. Thompson holding a workshop with the Commission on the process.

D. Dave received an invoice from Norway Plains for the establishing of property lines in the town forest, the invoice was for \$620.88. ***Jim Horgan motioned to pay the \$620.88 to Norway Plains, 2nd Neil Johnson.*** Discussion was held where it was noted that this project needs to be completed and the funds come from the Conservation Fund for the invoice. ***Motion carried with all in favor.***

E. Another invoice from BH Keith Associates for \$1035.00. ***Neil Johnson motioned to pay the \$1035 invoice for BH Keith Associates, 2nd Jim Horgan.*** Art asked why both representatives had to be present at the yearly monitoring walk because that was a very costly day and Fish and Game completes the monitoring. Dave said he believes they should attend a meeting to discuss their contract. ***Motion carried with Art LeClair opposed.***

Dave then stated that BH Keith will need to come to the next meeting to discuss the work plan for 2012. Art stated that he does not feel the work plan needs to be revisited because he feels the Commission with scouts and volunteers could do the trail marking and the forestry plan is already set and will need to be set back in motion next winter when the ground is ready.

F. Dave explained that Mr. Adams, resident along the access road of the Dubois property, complained about the “rutting up” of his road. Dave and Scott Hazelton visited the area and Scott will bring a load of gravel up to mediate the area when conditions allow.

5. Hay Day:

Art suggested he would like to see the Commission bring the furs back this year at Hay Day and then also run a fishing pole casting event. Art stated that the bracelets need to be ordered soon. *Dave Connolly motioned to allow Art LeClair to order another batch of bracelets with the cost to not exceed \$175, 2nd Neil Johnson. Motion carried with all in favor.* Art would also like to have some fish mounts for fish identification too. Dave will contact some people to see what he can find for fish mounts.

The next meeting is April 11, 2012.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

Chairman, David Connolly