

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 9, 2012
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

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

Committee Members Excused: Neil Johnson and Scott Kobbe

Selectmen's Representative: Jim Horgan

Public Present: Rodney Thompson, Katrina Kretschmar, Randy Tetreault, Richard Lutz, Mr. Adams, Jason Lyle and James Lawrence.

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

1. Review of Minutes:

Randy Orvis motioned to accept the minutes of 4-11-12 as amended, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried.

2. Discussion with FAMEE:

Katrina Kretschmar of the FAMEE program in town explained that they run an afterschool program at both the middle and high schools and they are very interested in working with the Commission. During the school year they have enrichment groups from 4-5pm afterschool each day and they run a summer program Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4:30pm. If the Commission has certain projects in mind for the kids to get involved in they would love to participate. The Commission suggested trail making, kiosks creating, gardening and such and Katrina agreed this would be great. The members will create a list of projects for the next meeting and Katrina will come to the June 13th meeting to set up a plan.

3. Town Forest Boundaries with Norway Plains:

Randy Tetreault stated that he did get a hold of Bob Hayes and he did sign the boundary line agreement. He then reviewed the discrepancies with the right of way to the road. The deed read along the edge of the woods road without actual measurements and Mr. Tetreault explained he suggested the Commission just clear it up while it was all being looked at. Mr. James Lawrence asked the members what they envision as the use of the property and what they knew of his father's reasons for donating the property. Randy O. explained that he feels both visions are the same and that it is for people to enjoy the outdoors. Mr. Lawrence stated that he feels his father would be upset to see the gate up on the property because his dad wanted complete free access.

Dave explained a gate was put up to stop the ATVs from accessing the property and to stop dumping.

Mr. Jason Lyle suggested showing a 30' easement onto town property around the corner by the access road off of Spinoff Point out to Old Bay Rd. to eliminate the third party. The Commission agreed this would be a good solution. Randy T. then stated that the other thing that came up with the property line down on the New Durham side (the Mercato piece) where there is a right of way shown in some old records but not mentioned in the deeds.

Jim Horgan motioned to move the right of way of 30' to avoid the Spinoff property, to create the verbiage to go along with the adjustment and create a plan to create the road, 2nd Randy Orvis. Motion carried with all in favor.

The Commission will work to create a draft agreement for this shift of the right of way and once it is approved will forward the document to Randy Tetreault so he can note it on the plans.

4. New England Cottontail Habitat w/Richard Lutz:

Mr. Lutz of the NH Association of Conservation Districts explained that they have been working with several groups to establish habitats for the New England Cottontail Rabbit of which they believe there are only 50 left in NH. He explained the minimum amount of habitat for them is 20 acres though the optimal is 50 acres. It also takes about 5 years to grow a sustainable cottontail habitat. The warbler, rough grouse and the woodcock also use the same type of habitat. Laura asked what types of plants they are planting for the habitats and Mr. Lutz explained they have been planting berry shrubs, juniper bushes and dogwoods. Dave asked what this commission can do and Mr. Lutz explained they should continue with forestry practices and let the shrubs come up, but to be careful with invasive shrubs. He then stated he would be willing to teach a 45 minute workshop at no charge to the town.

5. Discussion with Rodney Thompson:

Mr. Thompson explained that he has a plan for the first perambulation trip on June 3rd and reviewed it with the members. Everyone is planning on meeting at Honey Dew Donuts at 7am that day.

At 7:29pm, Jim Horgan motioned for a short recess, 2nd Kathy Spangler. Motion carried.

At 7:27pm the Commission reconvened.

6. Public Input:

Mr. Adams, abutter to Dubois property, asked for an update on the work that will be done to Dubois Lane. Dave explained that the town has been unable to complete the work for two reasons; one the weather has not cooperated and two the town had to wait for the gravel crushing

company. Jim asked if he knew who moved the large tree that was laid across the right of way and he replied no, he is not aware of the moved tree and he has not seen anyone up there.

7. CMA Engineers:

Dave reminded the Commission that CMA Engineers was looking for comments on their work along the school Tiger Trail. The members were in agreement that there are no environmental concerns for this project.

8. Cocheco Rivers Advisory Committee:

Dave explained that the Advisory Committee is looking for a volunteer from Farmington to serve on their committee though they do meet on the same night as this commission. No one was interested.

9. Hay Day

A. Jim Horgan motioned to authorize the payment of \$75 for three spaces for Hay Day, 2nd Laura Beard. Motion carried with all in favor.

B. Art reported he just received the 2012 Commission bracelets and is still working on some good plans. Art questioned where the tables and chairs will come from and Dave said he would take care of it. Kathy stated she will have three trees to raffle off.

10. Old Business:

A. Review/Comment River and Poor Farm Road Trees - Dave reminded the commission that Scott Hazelton requested the comment on his proposed tree cuttings. *Randy Orvis motioned to have Dave forward a letter to Scott Hazelton informing him that the Commission agrees with the trees identified to be cut as long as best management practices are followed, 2nd Laura Beard. Motion carried with all in favor.*

B. Conservation Workshop Report - Dave reported that the May workshop was a great success with 26 people in attendance.

C. Arbor Day Report – Dave reported that the Arbor Day tree planting at Fernald Park went very well. He sent thank you letters to Cameron’s and the Boy Scouts for the participation. He urged the members to think of a future planting place for next year.

D. FHS Report – Dave informed the Commission that he and Richard visited the Mr. Chamberlain’s high school classroom and gave a talk about the town properties. Also, today a few members went up to do some water quality testing with the same students.

E. Community Garden – Kathy informed the members that they have not been able to do much clearing because the ground has been so soft and muddy. They have set up some guidelines and

are working on some grants to obtain some free seeds. Also, they are waiting for the DPW to fix the fence and Jim reported Scott Hazelton is aware of the project and stated he would get to it soon. They also discussed a Kids Can Grow program though they are not sure if it will be ready for this planting season.

11. New Business:

A. Dubois Property – Dave reported that final check from the timber harvesting was received for \$8,700.05 which brings the total to about \$28,000.

B. Snowmobile Trail Map – Dave informed the members that he did receive a copy of the snowmobile trail map from BH Keith Associates. On the map a few gates are proposed and Dave wants to wait until next year to install the gates because the Snowmobile Club can get grants for the gates.

C. Landing/ Gate Estimates - Dave explained he has estimates for landscaping of the landing and install a gate at the access point. He feels this gate is a priority because just recently someone went onto the property moved a large tree, created large ruts and left quite a bit of trash. The estimates included;

	Landscaping	Gate
Baron Brothers Development	\$3,558	\$2,720
J.S Yurick Landscaping Services	\$2,500	\$2,200

A discussion was held were several members were concerned that the need for this bid process should have been discussed as a commission and then put through the town bid process instead of having BH Keith Associates doing it. Dave stated that he felt the commission hired BH Keith to take care of this type of items and Art replied they were hired for forest management and the commission can handle the reclamation. After much discussion the commission decided they would move forward with these bids but would prefer to discuss any such actions prior to in the future. *Randy Orvis motioned to accept the bid by J S Yurick Landscaping Services for both the landscaping and the gate for the Dubois property, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with Art LeClair abstaining.*

D. B H Keith Invoice – An invoice for \$572.50 for the snowmobile map, bid process for the landscaping and gate on the Dubois property and the hiking trail layout was received. *Randy Orvis motioned to authorize payment in the amount of \$572.50 to BH Keith Associates, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.*

E. Commission Member Identification – Art explained that he just recently had to deal with a situation where he spoke with the police department and they asked for some type of Commission identification. Jim showed an example of a business card that Megan could create

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for the members and it was agreed upon that this would be a great idea. Dave will contact Megan and ask her to create these for the members.

F. Dave informed the members that he and Jim found a tv and microwave on town property and the police were notified and given the appropriate evidence to move forward.

G. The Commission reviewed the Intent to Cuts and copies of the documents are on file with the town.

H. Dave reviewed the correspondence the Commission received over the past month.

I. Dave informed the Commission that after the most recent workshop he was approached to be on the Board of Directors for Moose Mountain Regional Greenways but after careful consideration he denied the position. They are currently looking for a representative from Farmington if anyone is interested.

The next meeting is June 13, 2012.

At 8:51pm, Randy Orvis motioned to adjourn, 2nd Kathy Spangler. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

Chairman, David Connolly