

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

Committee Members Present: Dave Connolly, Kathy Spangler, Art LeClair, Randy Orvis (arrived at 6:51pm) and Richard Ballou

Committee Members Excused: Neil Johnson, Scott Kobbe and Laura Beard

Selectmen's Representative: Jim Horgan

Public Present: Rodney Thompson, Bob Leary, Anna Boudreau and Kari Lungren

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

1. Review of Minutes:

Jim Horgan motioned to accept the July 11, 2012 gathering walk minutes as written, 2nd Richard Ballou. Motion carried with Randy Orvis and Kathy Spangler abstaining.

Jim Horgan motioned to accept the July 11, 2012 meeting minutes as amended, 2nd Randy Orvis. Motion carried with all in favor.

2. Wetlands Permit with Bob Leary:

Bob Leary explained that he is applying for a wetlands permit because he needs to install a new culvert so that people can continue to utilize the property. The members were in agreement that the design looks good and has minimum impact. *Randy Orvis motioned to authorize Dave Connolly as Chairman to sign the expedited paperwork for Mr. Leary, 2nd Richard Ballou. Motion carried with all in favor.*

3. Strafford Rivers Conservancy (SRC) with Anna Boudreau:

Anna Boudreau provided the Board with a large copy of the final survey plan for the Whittum Easement. She stated that the lender has been secured and has even partially released the mortgage to release the land in the conservation easement. Also the legal prescription has been completed and sent to Mr. Whittum for his approval and then will be sent to the town thereafter. Anna then stated that in section 3:10-2 the "equipment" mentioned has been identified for clarity.

Jim asked for a reminder of how many acres is included in the easement and Ann replied 98 acres which does not include the home property. Randy asked if the new change to the section

would allow for alternative energy on the conservation piece and Anna said yes. Randy stated that he would not be comfortable with creating alternative energy on the conservation land. Anna explained that the purpose of the easement would have to be met and the easement holder would have to give prior approval as well. (Anna then added that one final change was just voted in to change the grantor to landowner and grantee to easement holder.) Art stated that he agrees that he wouldn't want alternative energy equipment on the easement and neither would SRC so why is it included in the easement. Randy then read section 2:4 that spoke to forestry practices and felt more comfortable with the language as written. The other members agreed.

Dave reminded everyone that the Commission paid \$12,264 to the surveyor which leaves an approved payment of \$12,246. Dave then told Anna that in the future the town would rather pay SRC instead of the surveyor director. Randy stated that he would like to see a change on page 5, section 3.32 where the grantor asks permission to do something; he would like to see the approval changed from 30 days to 60 days. Anna agreed this would be fair and didn't see it as an issue with Mr. Whittum.

Plans for Hay Day were then made with Anna. She explained that an 8ft table would be sufficient and Kevin will be there to set up in the morning but she will be there later in the afternoon.

4. Moose Mountain Regional Greenways with Kari L.

Dave stated that he spoke with Kari and they believe it would be better to schedule the next forum in February/March because of the holidays coming up in the fall. Dave will contact Kari about Hay Day since she is not present at tonight's meeting.

5. FAMEE with Katrina K:

Katrina emailed Dave this afternoon to let him know that she was not available tonight. He will contact her to see if FAMEE is still interested in participating in Hay Day. Also, Richard explained that he and Laura presented a small workshop at FAMEE. He noted it was fun and the kids were engaged.

6. Final Hay Day Prep:

Final preparations for Hay Day were discussed. Richard will bring a donation jar. Art stated that he would contact NH Fish and Game next week if he does not here from them to confirm the skull and fur kit. Kathy will also bring some hangers for the shirts. Art suggested having the members wear badge holders with their business cards in them. ***Jim Horgan motioned to authorize Kathy Spangler to purchase badge holders for everyone at a cost not to exceed \$10, 2nd Richard Ballou. Motion carried with all in favor.***

At 7:40pm, Jim Horgan motioned for a short recess, 2nd Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.

At 7:50pm the Commission reconvened.

7. Data Gathering with Rodney T:

Rodney Thompson presented the Commission with draft trip reports for the boundary monuments that were located on the gathering walk on July 11, 2012. Members agreed the reports were very well done and thanked Rodney for his thoroughness. *Dave Connolly motioned to accept the trip reports and data sheets for NDF 10, 11 and 12 as presented, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.*

The next boundary gathering trip was scheduled for the town forest, up the woods road and then to the town line. The date was set for Sunday, September 23, 2012 at 7am. Everyone will meet at the Municipal Offices. Jim suggested the Commission compensate Mr. Thompson for the materials and printing costs but Mr. Thompson suggested they wait until the final product is complete. *Dave Connolly motioned to authorize reimbursement for any costs associated with the perambulation project by Mr. Thompson, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.*

8. Old Business:

A. Dave reported that the loggers do not want to cut the fingers on the French property until the ground is frozen.

B. Dave reported that the Hayes Easement was sent to the Registry of Deeds but was returned because the font size was not large enough and the signatures were not all dated. Dave will fix the errors and resubmit.

9. Strategic Analysis with Jeff Beard:

Dave asked the members to be sure to fill out the survey for Mr. Beard.

10. New Business:

A. Art informed the Commission that he would like to invite some guests to a future meeting because they are interested in helping do some river work to open back up the waterway from Farmington to Rochester via the Cochecho River. Jim asked who would be ultimately in charge of granting permission to do the clean up/removal of fallen trees. Dave will call the Wetlands Bureau to see if he can get some more information. It was also discussed that the parties are welcome to attend the meeting and participate in the discussion.

11. FYI:

A. Dave reported that all the situations regarding dumping on conservation lands have been dealt with and are being prosecuted. Also there was a nice article in the paper about the process. Dave explained that there is a device called a view finder that will make the process a lot easier though the cost is \$75. *Art LeClair motioned to authorize the purchase of a view finder not to exceed \$100, 2nd Richard Ballou. Motion carried with all in favor.*

Art asked if the Commission ever decided to install cameras by the Scruton gate. Jim mentioned another great place would be near Old Canney Road. Dave stated that he will also contact NH Fish and Game to see if they can work on fixing the stone wall where the ATVs are accessing the property. Jim asked if Dave can look into the possibility of night time cameras. *Art LeClair motioned to authorize Dave Connolly to purchase an additional camera to be placed on Scruton Road at a cost not to exceed \$250, 2nd Kathy Spangler. Motion carried with all in favor.*

B. NHDES Correspondence – Dave reviewed the correspondence that came in from NHDES.

C. LGC Volunteer of the Year Award – Dave informed the Commission that LGC is accepting applications for volunteer of the year award.

D. Dave provided the members with an updated budget expenditure sheet for their review. Dave pointed out that Cameron’s Lawn and Garden Center ended up donating the four trees for the Arbor Day planting at Fernald Park. Art suggested bringing him up two t-shirts and bracelets.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2012.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

Chairman, David Connolly