**TOWN OF FARMINGTON**

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, November 14, 2012**

**356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

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

**Committee Members Excused:** Scott Kobbe

**Selectmen’s Representative:** Jim Horgan

**Town Staff Present:** Planning Director Kathy Menici

**Public Present:** Mr. Chamberlain, Don Allis, Sara Cantwell, Tyler Smith and Cece

**At 6:38pm, Chairman Dave Connolly opened the meeting.**

**1. Review of Minutes:**

***Neil Johnson motioned to accept the October 10, 2012 minutes as amended, 2ndJim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.***

**2. Community Clean-Up Report/Results:**

Mr. Don Allis read a thank you letter his wife wrote thanking the 40 plus volunteers who participated and helped with the most recent first Community Clean Up Day. On Saturday, November 10, 2012 the volunteers cleaned 6 miles of roads in town and picked up 175 bags of trash, 17 tires, car parts, 2 televisions and more, all totaling 1.2 tons of garbage. He also noted that there were a few other crews around town that were cleaning their roadside on their own including Pike Industries. Commission members noted that this was a great and successful event and another Clean-Up Day should be scheduled for the spring. Dave thanked Don and Abby Allis for starting the idea and getting the community involved along with the Selectmen, DPW and Police who supported the event. Another Clean-Up event will be scheduled for the spring.

**3. Review of Proposed Wetlands Conservation Overlay District Ordinance:**

Dave explained that the Planning Board is working on amending some of the ordinances in town and the wetlands conservation overlay district ordinance has raised a lot of issues over the past few years because it is not clear and concise. Specifically the town does not have any Class 1 wetlands and the National Wetlands Inventory Program is not up to date on the Class 2 wetlands therefore there is no way to delineate the wetlands at the Planning Board level. Randy pointed out that the town should have a copy of the maps that delineate the wetlands in Farmington and when Kathy said the maps are not in the Planning Office he offered to bring her a copy. ***Jim Horgan motioned to table the discussion until next month, 2nd Neil Johnson. Motion carried with all in favor.***

**4. FHS:**

Dave informed the Commission that he and Laura went to the high school last Wednesday and met with Mr. Chamberlain’s class. The next unit in Mr. Chamberlain’s class is forestry and he thinks it would be useful for his class to visit an active forestry site, as well as, any wetlands. It was discussed that the French Property would probably work best for the educational needs and Mr. Chamberlain will meet with the Commission members to visit the site for potential projects. Two of his students came to the meeting tonight, Sara and Tyler, and both noted they would be interested in such projects. The initial visit for land inspection was scheduled for Saturday, December 29 at 9am; everyone wanting to attend should meet at the Municipal Building parking lot. On another note, Sara and Tyler both commented that they would be interested in being student members of the Commission and took applications.

**At 7:53pm, *Jim Horgan motioned for a short recess, 2nd Richard Ballou. Motion carried with all in favor.***

**At 8:05pm the Commission reconvened.**

**5. Access at Town Forest:**

Dave reported that he has learned from Attorney Shultz, that Mr. Davenport does not have written permission to execute a decision on easement for the town forest property on behalf of the other five members listed on the deed. Also, it does not appear the Lawrence’s have a historic prescriptive right into their property. The Board was in agreement that the Davenport needs to be “legalized” by having the other owners added to the documentation.

**6. Lawrence Property R62-2:**

Dave has been notified by Mr. Lyle that the Lawrence’s would like to sell their 46 acres between the Town Forest and the SPNHF (Society for Protection of NH Forests) easement for $96,000. Jim asked what the current use account balance is and Dave stated about $131,000. Dave commented that if the Commission chose to purchase this property it would solve the access situation for the Town Forest. Members were in agreement that the acquisition of the land would be an asset to the town but that the price was a bit high since it is land locked and recently harvested (so the value is reduced). It was then noted that maybe there are other entities that would be willing to purchase the property with the town such as Strafford Rivers, Moose Mountain and NH Fish and Game.

***Jim Horgan motioned to authorize Dave Connolly to inform Mr. Lyle that the Commission has some interest in the Lawrence property and then pursue alternative funding sources through the afore mentioned sources and also pursue the legal documentation to document the correct holders of the Davenport Easement, 2nd Richard Ballou. Motion carried with all in favor.***

**7. Other Business:**

**A.**  Dave asked if any of the members have By-law changes to suggest and there were none.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2012.

***At 8:29pm, Art LeClair motioned to adjourn, 2nd Kathy Spangler. Motion carried with all in favor.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman, David Connolly