

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, January 9, 2013  
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

**Committee Members Present:** Dave Connolly, Scott Kobbe, Art LeClair, Randy Orvis,  
Neil Johnson, Tyler Smith, Sarah Cantwell

**Committee Members Excused:** Richard Ballou and Kathy Spangler

**Selectmen's Representative:** Jim Horgan

**Public Present:** Ed Cantwell and Mr. Chamberlain

**At 6:32pm, Chairman Dave Connolly opened the meeting.**

**1. Review of Minutes:**

*Neil Johnson motioned to accept the December 12, 2012 minutes as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> Art LeClair.  
Motion carried with all in favor.*

**2. Results of Property Walk with Mr. Chamberlain:**

Dave informed the members that he and Richard explored the conservation properties with Mr. Chamberlain and he feels the French Property would best meet the needs of his curriculum. He will contact the Commission when he is ready to schedule a visit.

**3. Old Business:**

**A. Update: Lawrence Property** – Dave informed the members that he did not authorize the start of the appraisal for the property because he has two drastically different quotes. One quote is for between \$1500-\$2000 and the other is for \$800. Randy commented that he feels the \$800 is reasonable for an appraisal. Scott asked if there is wiggle room with the asking price of the property because if the Commission spends the funds and the appraisal comes in significantly lower it would be nice to know they are willing to negotiate. Dave replied that in his conversation with the land steward, Jason Lyle, he feels there is room to negotiate. Both appraisers were recommended by Moose Mountain Greenways. Neil suggested getting a scope of work from the appraisal who gave the lower quote and Dave replied he would do so.

**B. Update: Energy Resources Group** – Dave gave copies of the monitoring report to all members and notified them that a police report was filed. The report was also sent to ERG through certified mail and thus far the certified receipt has not come back. A phone call was made to ERG and the response was the person who would take care of it was out of town so Dave resent it by certified mail again today. They will have 30 days to come into compliance.

#### **4. New Business:**

**A. Annual Monitoring Report for French and Dubois Property** – Dave informed the members that it is time to complete the annual report for the French and Dubois properties however the logger said the land was too soft. They have gone out and plowed the walking area to help it freeze and will notify Dave when it is ready. Art pointed out that we do not want BH and Keith Associates to be involved in the monitoring because we don't want to have to pay for it when Fish and Game are responsible for the monitoring. Randy stated if the monitoring happens to be done the same day BH Keith is there monitoring the logging that would be fine but the Commission will not have to pay for that service separately. Dave will contact Fish and Game and inform them that there will be an active logging project going on to cut the fingers so if they want to do their monitoring at the same time they could coordinate the visit.

**B. 2012 Activity Report for the Dubois and French Properties by BH Keith Associates** – The members reviewed the activity report put together by BH Keith Associates for the Dubois and French Properties. *Jim Horgan motioned to accept the 2012 Activity Report for the Dubois and French Properties as presented by BH Keith Associates, 2<sup>nd</sup> Neil Johnson. Motion carried with all in favor.*

**C.** Jim gave a key to the gate on the Dubois Property to the Snowmobile Club so they could get the groomer through to manage the trails.

**D.** Art informed the members from Meaderboro Road up Sheepboro Road between Whaleback Pond and the secondary Rochester Reservoir has historically been a dumping ground. There were names on the litter and Art contacted the Farmington Police Department. The PD contacted the owner of the trash but there was no way to prove how the trash got there. Art stated this area would be a great place for a camera so the "litterer" can be caught. Jim questioned if we could legally do that because we do not own conservation land there. Randy stated maybe a letter to the City of Rochester or there Conservation Commission would be more appropriate. Dave will contact the Rochester Conservation Commission and water department to inform them of the issue.

**E.** Art noted that there is a gentleman, John Borg who cleans the litter along Poor Farm Road almost daily for the past 25 years. He would like the Commission to consider creating a Commission's Citizen of the Year to recognize people like him that go above and beyond to make the town a better place to live. Tyler asked how the Commission would go about finding the nominees and Art explained we would have to advertise for nominations. Jim suggested awarding at Town Meeting. Dave asked if the members would like to present one this year for 2012. Members discussed that John Borg, Abby Pagan-Allis and Rodney Thompson. *Art LeClair motioned to authorize Dave Connolly to expend up to \$100 to purchase three plaques for the people discussed tonight to present at Town Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.*

F. Scott asked if anyone ordered the maps that CeCe offered at the last meeting. Dave explained that she was referring to the wetlands maps that Randy showed to the Planner so at this time we do not need any specific maps.

**5. Report/Comment from FHS Representatives:**

Sarah stated that she is really big on energy conservation and questioned why the Christmas lights are still up in town. Jim stated that the employee who is in charge of taking them down has been ill but the department is working on it.

**6. New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists (NHANRS) –**

Dave explained that the Commission received a renewal form for our membership in the NHANRS of which the cost is \$20. *Neil Johnson motioned to renew the Commission's membership in NHANRS, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Horgan. Motion carried with Randy Orvis abstaining.*

**7. Moose Mountain Greenways Annual Dinner:**

Dave informed the Commission that this year's Moose Mountain Greenways Annual Dinner is scheduled for Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm. Richard Ballou has expressed interest in attending on behalf of the Commission. *Jim Horgan motioned to authorize the expenditure of up to \$200 for the Commission's attendance at the Moose Mountain Greenways Annual Dinner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Neil Johnson.* Discussion followed where it was noted that if the student members would like to attend then their tickets along with ones for their parents will be paid for through the Commission. *Motion carried with all in favor.*

**8. BH Keith Invoice:**

A. Dave informed the Commission that an invoice from BH Keith for \$135 was received. *Neil Johnson motioned to pay the BH Keith invoice for \$135, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.*

**9. Arbor Day Foundation:**

Dave received information regarding new grants from TD Bank for trees and such, however the town is not part of Tree City USA which is required. Sarah volunteered to go to the Arbor Tree Foundation website to research what is required to become a Tree City community.

**10. Valley View Community School:**

Dave informed the members that the third grade students at Valley View wrote thank you letters to Abby Pagan-Allis for organizing the town clean up. They also invited Abby and the Commission to come to their classroom next Thursday, January 17th at 12:30pm to give a brief talk about what they do.

**11. Comment from Chairman:**

Dave informed the members that he is going to file an intent to run for Selectmen this year and if he was to be elected then he would request to be the Selectmen's Rep. If he is not elected then he will continue his work with the Commission anyway.

**12. Any Other Business To Come Before the Board:**

A. Mr. Chamberlain commented that it is very humbling to have two students serving on this Commission. Also, Sarah has been accepted to the University of Maine in Unity and is a strong candidate to obtain a \$10,000 scholarship.

*At 9:06pm, Art LeClair motioned to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Neil Johnson. Motion carried with all in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

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Chairman, David Connolly