

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, February 13, 2013  
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

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

**Selectmen's Representative:** Jim Horgan

**Public Present:** Kari Lygren and Debra Shigo

**At 6:30pm, Chairman Dave Connolly opened the meeting.**

**1. Review of Minutes:**

*Jim Horgan motioned to accept the January 9, 2013 minutes as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.*

**2. Discussion with Debra Shigo (Rochester Conservation Commission):**

Art explained that he has witnessed a lot of dumping on Sheepboro Road of trash and though the City of Rochester has been doing a great job of picking up the trash he has concern that the dumping is increasing. He further noted that this is a sensitive area because of the water supply and questioned if the Rochester Conservation Commission would be willing to join the efforts to purchase trail/game cameras for this area to assist with catching the litterers. Art suggested Debra discuss this with her water department because they might be willing to assist with the costs as well. Debra stated that she will definitely bring this information to her Commission next week and the DPW Director who is in charge of the area. Dave explained to her that the cost for the complete camera set up is approximately \$300.

Art then suggested the two towns work together to make some strides in addressing the sediment erosion control measures in this same area because the stormwater run-off is definitely affecting the area. Debra stated that she would like to go visit the area and would be interested in a collaborative effort.

**3. Discussion with Kari Lygren:**

Kari Lygren of Moose Mountain Greenways explained that she just recently contacted biologist, Heidi Holman about presenting at the March 28th public forum regarding the Cottontail and Connor Blue Butterfly. The forum will be held at the Town Hall and probably starting at 6:30pm but Kari will let the Commission now. *Dave Connolly motioned to have the Commission purchase liquid refreshments for the event with a spending limit of \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Horgan.*

***Motion carried with all in favor.*** Art suggested that Kari forward the event flyer to local high schools because there might be quite a few students who would be interested in attending.

Kari then asked the Commission if they would be interested in attending/being a part of a Conservation Commission Social gathering where different commission could meet each other. The members agreed that this would be a great idea and October would be a great time for such a meeting. She then asked if the Commission would be interested in hosting another workshop with the presenter who talks about different forms of rainwater run-off mediations like rain gardens. The Commission agreed this would be a great idea. Debra Shigo added that Rochester would be interested in participating also and April/May would be a good time of year so that people could incorporate the ideas into their construction plans.

Kari then stated that MMRG hold a paddle event in Milton which is very successful and they are looking to host a fall paddle event in New Durham/Farmington. Art suggested she plan something like that in late fall. He then added that a collaborative to make a clear waterway path down the Cocheco River to Rochester would be a great idea and Debra Shigo replied that she agrees this would be a wonderful collaborative.

#### **4. Old Business:**

A. Valley View Visit - Dave informed the Commission that Abby Pagan-Ellis, Jim Horgan and himself went to a third grade classroom at Valley View after being invited to talk about the community clean up day that Abby organized. It was a huge success.

B. MMRG Annual Meeting - Sara reported that she enjoyed the water presentation a lot and had a great time. Tyler added that he also enjoyed the presentation and learned a lot. Then Richard reiterated their comments.

C. Energy Resources Group – Dave informed the members that he received a letter dated January 14, 2012 from ERG stating that several items have been mitigated. The iron was moved along with the cement slabs and the tarps and they noted the tire tracks and educated their employees. Dave read a police report dated February 6, 2013 from when the police visited the site regarding the breach of easement. The report stated the officer noted and took pictures of litter, tire tracks, conservation signage damaged, and more. The Code Enforcement Officer suggested the Commission send a letter to ERG regarding the findings and request their presence at a meeting to address how these breaches will be mitigated. Art agreed they should come to a meeting to explain the discrepancies and he feels the forest ranger should be in attendance as well. Dave replied that NHDES can be involved and offered their assistance however the forest ranger stated he would only be involved if it was a woods issue and it is not. ***Art LeClair motioned to have Dave send a letter to ERG requesting their presence at the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and a subsequent letter to NHDES requesting their presence as well, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy Spangler. Motion carried with all in favor.*** Neil suggested several members go back up to the site to witness/photograph the current infractions that can be seen under the current weather conditions.

**Jim Horgan motioned for a short recess, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Connolly. Motion carried with all in favor.**

**The Commission reconvened.**

D. Dave informed the members that he was in front of the Budget Committee last week and there is a public hearing this Friday evening at 6pm to review the budget again before it goes to Town Meeting.

E. Lawrence Property Appraisal – Dave stated that he did send a request to the bidders for an explanation of their quotes. He received information back that stated the higher quote was for a summary report with back up information and the lower quote was for just a basic appraisal quote but if they had to provide a summary report their cost would increase to \$1800. Art suggested getting the basic appraisal to see what the property is worth and then if we need a summary report in the future for funding sources we can go back and get the more intensive report. He also suggested a discussion be held with the Lawrence's before any money is spent to see if the Lawrence's are willing to negotiate with the price because if they are not then there is no use going any further. Dave will contact Mr. Lawrence and Jason Lyle (local land steward) to see if they would be willing to come to the next meeting.

**5. New Business:**

A. Earth Day – Dave reminded the members that Abby Pagan-Ellis previously suggested a community clean up day for Earth Day and he would like to invite her to the next meeting to discuss this further. The members agreed this would be a great idea.

B. Arbor Day – Dave posed the question as to what the Commission would like to do this year for Arbor Day (April 26, 2013). Jim suggested shade trees for Valley View Community School. Randy stated another area for a row of trees would be on the island between High Street and Rte. 11. Dave will look for pricing for the trees and Jim will contact the School Facilities Manager and see what he feels about the project.

C. Tree City USA – Sara reported that there are four requirements to becoming a Tree City USA and they are; 1. A Tree Board or Department is needed to be responsible for the care of the trees, 2. A Tree Care Ordinance that designates the establishment of the afore said Board and provide clear guidance for tree maintenance, 3. A community tree budget with a budget of at least \$2 per capita and 4. An Arbor Day observance/proclamation. Neil asked what the benefit of being a Tree City is and Sara stated a they provide \$200,000 in grants. Art asked that it would better the community, actively manage the tree population, and work towards erosion control. The members were in agreement that they would like to do some further research on this. Sara will contact the Urban Forestry Center to see if they would be willing to come to the April meeting to explain the program to the Commission.

D. Randy informed the Commission that he was present during the finger cutting/logging on the French Property and Fish and Game was impressed with their operation. Some gates are needed on the property and the Snowmobile Club has stated that there are grants typically available for gate purchase however there are no funds available this year.

E. Conservation Commission Citizen of the Year – Jim informed the Commission that he was unable to purchase the previously discussed plaques due to the price but found a replacement certificate. The members reviewed what Jim suggested and agreed they were appropriate and Dave will present them at Town Meeting to the recipients.

F. MMRG Annual Dues – *Jim Horgan motioned to pay the \$100 annual dues to MMRG, 2<sup>nd</sup> Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.*

*At 9:00pm, 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