

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, July 10, 2013
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

Committee Members Present: Dave Connolly, Sarah Cantwell, Neil Johnson, Randy Orvis and Richard Ballou

Committee Members Excused: Scott Kobbe and Art LeClair

Committee Members Absent: Tyler Smith

Selectmen's Representative: Jim Horgan

Public Present: Rodney Thompson and Keith Fletcher of MMRG

At 6:30pm, Chairman Dave Connolly opened the meeting and seated alternate Neil Johnson.

1. Review of Minutes:

Jim Horgan motioned to accept the June 12, 2013 minutes as amended, 2nd Richard Ballou. Motion carried with Neil Johnson abstaining.

2. MMRG re: Thompson Property:

Keith Fletcher of Moose Mountain Regional Greenways (MMRG) is working with the Thompsons to conserve their land in an easement. Mr. Thompson reviewed a Power point he put together displaying his property and its characteristics. Mr. Fletcher explained that they believe the total cost for the easement would be about \$20,000 though some of these costs have already been incurred. Rodney Thompson had his Farmington property surveyed at \$6,600 plus agreed to fund a lot of the stewardship costs. MMRG is questioning if the Commission would be willing to fund a survey around the excluded area around the house and the agricultural area. They expect the cost of these surveys to be between \$1,500 and \$2,000 and become a tertiary partner in the easement.

Randy noted that the driveway is not included in the excluded area and Mr. Thompson explained that they have language drafted in the easement for the driveway and the utility poles. The easement would be for 140 acres in Farmington and an additional 50 in New Durham. *Jim Horgan motioned to authorize an expenditure of up to \$2,000 for survey work for the proposed Thompson conservation easement, 2nd Richard Ballou.* Discussion followed where Neil asked if there is a deed, at least in draft form, that states the town is a shareholder. MMRG will provide an agreement stating the town would be a shareholder in the easement. *Jim Horgan amended his motion to state it would be contingent upon the town receiving documentation*

that they would be a shareholder in the easement. Motion carried with all in favor. Randy noted that this parcel fits the town's Master Plan for the purpose of easements more than any others. Mr. Thompson noted that the parcel is posted for "No Trespassing" and he is not willing to remove the posting but will allow visitors with permission and a guide.

3. Old Business:

A. Hay Day – Dave informed the Commission the entrance fee for Hay Day is \$25 per space and three spots are needed. *Jim Horgan motioned to authorize the \$75 fee to be paid to the Rec. Department for Hay Day spaces, 2nd Richard Ballou. Motion carried with all in favor.* Art will be reserving the NH Trees and Forest and Wetlands and Water Quality kits for the booth. Dave reported that the UNH Woodsmen group has a commitment that same day and will be unable to attend. Stafford Regional Conservancy, Lorie Chase of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy and Moose Mountain Greenways will be setting up displays as well. Jim asked if NH Fish and Game has responded to the invite and Dave replied he has not heard back yet. Dave then thanked Farmington Taylor Rental for donating 9 tables, 10 chairs and 2 canopies for the event. Jim will bring an additional canopy and Sarah offered her canopy though she won't be around for the weekend. Dave added that if the Commission would like to pass out balloons again this year because if so they would need to be purchased. *Neil Johnson motioned to expend up to \$150 for balloons and helium for Hay Day, 2nd Jim Horgan.* Discussion followed where Randy noted he didn't feel balloons were the best thing to give out. *Motion carried with Richard Ballou and Randy Orvis opposed.*

B. Smith Property – Dave reported that Foster's did a nice, lengthy write up on the graffiti at the Smith Property. Randy noted that he lives very close to the flume and questioned what he should do when he sees "wrongdoing" happening. Members noted that he can take photos and call the police to make them aware since it is town conservation land. Dave and Jim met with Bruce Kerr about how they could remove the graffiti that was done. Dave also talked with several people from NHDES and they suggested waiting to clean the graffiti when the river is a bit lower. Jim said he found an item, Lift Off, sold at Home Depot that advertises it will remove the paint. Neil noted he is aware of another product called "Peel Away" that he feels will work and he will check the website to see what its environmental impact would be.

C. French Property – Dave reminded the members that whatever is proposed for plans for this property will have to go to NH Fish and Game for approval.

1. Trail Proposal: Several members walked the parcel, basically following the skidder trails, to gps a simple trail around the parcel. Consensus was that this was a good trail proposal to propose to Fish and Game. There is a bog crossing that currently has trees down and Dave suggested constructing a bog crossing made out of planks like they have on a lot of trails. Sarah mentioned that she was on a hiking trail that had planks covered with "shingle" material so they weren't slippery.

2. Parking Lot Layout: Dave met with the Town Administrator, Acting DPW Director and DPW worker to create a parking lot layout. They drafted a proposal with five parking spaces and a turn out. A 15” culvert was proposed to go across the entrance.

3. Trail Markers: Dave researched and discovered that the Dept. of Corrections can make trail markers and provided sample materials. The cost would be 100 aluminum for \$0.85/ea or 100 poly for \$0.65/ea. The members decided a yellow background, on an aluminum tile with a picture of hikers on it would be best. It was discussed to purchase 500 tiles so they can be used on this property as well as the other conservation properties in town.

4. Kiosk: An RFP went out but none were received. Dave will put out another RFP while reaching out to BH Keith and some sign shops to see if he can get some interest if the members are interested. BH Keith subcontracts the construction/installation of kiosks for \$500 a piece. The consensus was for Dave to contact BH Keith and have them constructed.

5. Grant Invoice: Dave informed the members he received a small grants invoice for \$2000 from NH Fish and Game and the Selectmen have signed it.

6. Stumpage Invoice: Dave reported this has not been received yet.

D. Other – The snowmobile trails were GPS and approved by NH Fish and Game.

4. New Business:

A. Next Monday, July 15, 2013 at 8am any interested members can meet at the Municipal Building to do the second round of water testing.

B. Jim reminded Dave that Laura Beard will be presenting the bugs again this year at Hay Day for the Commission.

C. Jim stated that the Commission needs to look at the current properties it owns and establish a minimum fund that stays in a separate fund to take care of the different management plans so that the money does not dwindle away.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2013.

At 8:55pm, Neil Johnson motioned to adjourn, 2nd Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

Amended and accepted 8-14-13

Chairman, David Connolly