

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON**  
**Conservation Commission Meeting**  
**Wednesday October 9, 2013**

**Committee Members Present:** Richard Ballou, Dave Connolly, Neil Johnson, Art LeClair,

**Committee Member Excused:** Scott Kobbe, Tyler Smith

**Committee Member Absent:** Randy Orvis

**Selectman's Representative:** Jim Horgan

**Public Present:** Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Tim Huppe, Mr. William Carpenter, Rodney Thompson, Mrs. Anna Boudreau

Alternate Neil Johnson seated by Dave Connolly

**1) Call to Order 6:35PM**

**2) Pledge of Allegiance**

**Dave Connolly motions to swap the agenda order; Jim 1<sup>st</sup>, Richard 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved by all**

3) Review of minutes as amended

**Motion to accept - Jim 1<sup>st</sup>, Richard 2<sup>nd</sup>; passed by all**

**6) Mr. Carpenter Division of Forest and Lands**

Dave thanks Mr. Carpenter for coming to the meeting because we have concerns about this area, Dave refers to Art to explain. Art explains the Conservation Commission's two concerns: soil erosion caused by vehicles driving around the shallow soils and hikers losing their bearings due to no clear signage. Art explains that the conservation commission would like to see a cooperative from the Division of Forests and Lands and Fish and Game effort to both protect this resource and create signs that assist hikers with direction.

Issue #1 – Erosion due to Wheeled Vehicles.

Mr. Carpenter states they are struggling to control violators and that state forester Scott Rolf, and Forest Ranger Neil Bilodeau may be of help. Jim explains that we can monitor vehicle encroachment by putting up cameras but we just need the State and Fish and Game to back us up. Dave, Mr. Carpenter, and Richard go over the map to identify places vehicles enter. Dave states the Commission has some signs. Mr. Carpenter suggests that we meet on site to evaluate the situation. Dave and Jim explain the cost and details of the camera.

Mr. Carpenter says let me take this back to discuss. Dave suggests a weekend meeting?

Issue #2 – Lost hikers on the Blue Job hiking trails. Richard tells a story of a family lost while hiking due to iPhone and Google directions. Mr. Carpenter – color coding the trails, we could do a better trail marking. Art states that the real issue is a lack of signage for the hikers. Mr. Carpenter suggests using local wood carvers to make the signs and Dave

thinks of having the high school wood shop do signs and asks Mr. Chamberlain who the woodshop teacher is at FHS. Mr. Chamberlain states it is Mr. David Fontaine. Mr. Carpenter leaves business cards and says that he will speak with Will Guinn regional forester and says “let’s find solutions and try to make a difference”. One last statement before Mr. Carpenter leaves; “ you’re an impressive group”.

8:13PM

### **5) Huppe Project with SRC (Anna Boudreau/Tim Huppe)**

Anna – excited to give update; 99 acres. “I’m the property manager”. If we do the conservation easement we have to do the title search, assessment etc. Anna reads the project summary (please forward by email). Anna – next paper, Timeline on the Project; Dave – reminds folks that we received appraisal back in July. Anna passes out Land Conservation Project Budget Art states that the bottom line is how to come up with the \$106,000. Dave states that we are all for the project. Jim thinking the Conservation Commission can contribute between \$15-25,000 Neil Johnson questions what we get, any restrictions due to the concerns that occurred with the Whittum project. Tim Huppe states he has no problem with public access only when damage occurs due to vehicles. Anna states that this is October and should we (Strafford Rivers Conservation Association) come back with updated figures; perhaps a public hearing in December. Dave reaffirms, you’re looking for a commitment from us by November. Anna leaves copies of the Project Summary, Budget, and Maps of the Huppe Project.

### **Old Business**

#### **7A) Grant Application**

Dave met with Kathy Menci, decided on one application not two. The one application was done for \$7480. For the trail work on the French property. We will know in early November the status of the grant; by the end of November will know if we get the grant.

#### **7B) French Trail Project Meeting**

Dave will go to meet at Pease with DES.

#### **7C) By laws – no changes**

#### **7D) Farmington High School**

Dave and Richard will meet with Mr. Chamberlain’s new class October 17 @ 1:35PM. Mr. Chamberlain states he is pleased with the direction and momentum between FHS and the Conservation Commission. Mr. Chamberlain currently has eight students. Good things that happened last year: visibility and knowing about the ConCom, Arbor day, Community CleanUp. Jim reminds everyone that we spent some time last year checking out several of the properties. Mr. Chamberlain states that he has built into his curriculum a requirement for students to be involved with something in the community. Mr. Chamberlain ends the discussion by saying “Kids are sympathetic to conservation; they just don’t know what to do with it.”

#### **7E) Kiosks 4 X 4**

Installation – do ourselves or public works would be glad to help us, or quotes to install (\$400.00/sign = \$1200.00 for all three).

**Motion to Recess; Jim 1<sup>st</sup>, Neil 2<sup>nd</sup>; all approved**

Return to Business 8:25

### **8) New Business**

A) 2014 Budget Review

Items that Commission wants to include: sending two campers to Conservation Camp, replace cameras, bracelets.

**Motion to purchase 2 cameras plus accessories not to exceed \$600.00, Neil Smith 1<sup>st</sup>, Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>; approved by all.**

**Motion to spend up to \$175.00 on conservation bracelets, Art 1<sup>st</sup>, Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>; approved by all.**

Current conservation account \$124, 883.76

B) Conservation Center

Dave Connolly suggest that we consider constructing a lodge on one of our properties.  
Jim Horgan suggest that we check what the deed states.

### **C) Any Other Old Business**

#### **9) FYI**

a) Mad River 10-10-13

Restoration project kickoff

b) MMRG 11-7-13 Thursday

Seven area town's Conservation commissions get together at Middleton Town hall; Route 153 on November 7<sup>th</sup>. All members are invited.

c) Any Other FYI

Illegal dumping, suspect caught, will be summoned.

**At approximately 8:15PM**

**Motion to go nonpublic**

**Roll Call Taken**

**Dave 1<sup>st</sup>, Jim 2<sup>nd</sup> ; approved by all.**

### **10) Non Public RSA:91 A3 II d**

**11) At approximately, 8:35PM, Call Back to Public**

**12) Motion to Seal for 180 days; Dave 1<sup>st</sup>, Neil 2<sup>nd</sup>; approved by all.**

**13) November Meeting Date → 11/13/13**

**14) Any Other Business**

**15) Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn; Art 1<sup>st</sup>, Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>; approved by all.**