

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, September 11, 2013  
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

**Committee Members Present:** Dave Connolly, Randy Orvis, Scott Kobbe, Richard Ballou, Art LeClair

**Committee Members Excused:** None

**Committee Members Absent:** Tyler Smith

**Selectmen's Representative:** Jim Horgan

**Public Present:** Rodney Thompson, Neil Johnson, Kathy Menici

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

**The Pledge of Allegiance**

**A Moment of Silence for the events of 9/11/01**

**1. Public Comment:**

None

**2. Review of Grant Application for the French Property:**

3. Dave Connolly had done some preliminary steps prior to tonight's discussion including a visit to the Planning Office and meeting with the selectmen on Monday (9/9/13).

Kathy Menici from the Planning Office went over what she needed and sought clarification from the Conservation Commission about the focus of the grant. Kathy's first major point was that the process was so involved and the amount of work about equal that we might as well go for the \$3500.00 version as the \$750.00 version.

Dave informed everyone that N.H. Fish and Game has approved the trail and boardwalk plans for the French property.

Discussion ensued that included the following focal points: reducing erosion, flooding, bog bridge.

Kathy reminded the Commission that there was no match requirement for this grant.

Kathy stated that she needed the following as soon as possible: photographs of the skidder trails (Dave told his story of lost and found again with no pictures), estimates of the costs, and trail delineation.

Discussion occurred on the following items: sawmill operator and costs, stream crossing and estimates from local contractors, snowmobile bridge, trail markers and use of the Boy Scouts.

Kathy reviews the items to be done and refers to aerial maps and states she needs a map to be done to show just the skidder trails. Dave asks Rodney Thompson about using his maps. Kathy asks that we go over the questions that she asked including items like the woodcock area, timeline of completion for each item, trail stabilization, removal of slash, bog crossings and erosion control. Kathy reminds the Commission that costs need to be accurate, including official estimates is best.

Rodney cited the trail distance

Discussion on the topic conclude with ideas about publicity and ways to promote the effort on the French property.

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

##### **a) Town Forest**

Discussion on the Town Forest included the following:

- The Town Forest is one of four deeded properties to the Town of Farmington that have conservation restrictions but no conservation easement.
- A survey and forest inventory has been done
- No management plan exists for the property.
- Concerns center on the Mill Pond, human impact and stewardship.
- The Town Forest is abutted by SPNH forest land

##### **A. Blue Job Discussion**

**Concerns are still centered on lost hikers and erosion by four-wheelers and the fact that this is one of the town's most valuable natural resource. Dave suggested doing invites to the October meeting that include: DRED, NH F&G, and our local state forest ranger.**

**Adjourned@ 7:46**

**Motion by Jim Horgan called for a break, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Kobbe**

**Resumed @ 7:52**

##### **B. French Project**

There still exists a need to do a wetland application. Dave explained the cost of Kiosk structures: 4' X 8' and 4' X 4'.

**Jim Horgan motioned for the purchase of 4' X 4' kiosk(s) not to exceed \$2400.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Ballou; passed by all.**

draft

### **C. Hay Day Review**

Dave initiated a review of Hay Day 2013. He wrote Thank You notes to the following: Moose Mountain Regional Greenways, UNH-4H, Strafford Rivers Conservancy, Cocheeco Watershed Advisory Committee, Laura Beard and Taylor Rental.

Discussion ensued about what was successful this year (the bugs) and what wasn't successful this year (forest and watershed kits). The Commission will focus on creating our own collection of furs and skulls, donated bones, possibly our own insect samples.

Art LeClair suggested a division of labor in terms of covering the booths, set-up and take down.

### **D. Dubois Activity:**

Illegal dumping by a conservation plate vehicle; officer Hunter was contacted. Camera on site has been tampered with.

### **E. Any Other New Business**

Review of Minutes for August 14, 2013

- Correction to the minutes

**Jim Horgan motioned to accept the minutes as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Ballou, abstain – Art LeClair**

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

**A.** April Forum w MMRG. Proposal headed toward a “ Moose Talk”.

**B.** Member Resignation – letter from Joshua Carlson

**Motion to accept by Jim Horgan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Kobbe; all approved.**

### **5. FYI's**

NH Association Resource Scientists meeting 9/19/13

NH Cooperative Extension, Lancaster – Berry Conservation Camp.

Dave shared a Thank You card from Savanna Kinsley, our 2013 recipient of a conservation camp scholarship titled “Tiger at Heart”.

October Meeting Date – 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM

**Adjournment: Art LeClair -1<sup>st</sup> motion; Richard Ballou – 2<sup>nd</sup> motion; all approved**