

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission - Public Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 15, 2014
6:30PM
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Connolly (Chairman), Scott Kobbe, Randy Orvis, Laura Bogardus, Glen Demers, Student Representative, Tyler Smith, Jim Horgan (Selectmen's Representative)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Richard Ballou

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rodney Thompson, Anna Boudreau, Maurice Huppe, Geraldine Huppe, Eric Chamberlain, Kaitlyn Baillargean (FHS Student), Matthew Dent (FHS Student), Amanda Raasumaa (FHS Student), Tananchanit Manomaiphan (FHS Student), and Jamen Gunnison

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Dave called meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance @6:35 PM

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dave asked if there was any Public Comment and there was none.

Dave welcomed Mr. Chamberlain and his high school students to the meeting and asked for a sign in sheet so that their names could be correctly added to the meeting minutes.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

• **Public Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2013**

MOTION: Jim motioned to approve minutes for December 11, 2013 as written.

SECOND: Randy

DISCUSSION: Dave asked that the minutes include others that were present at the top and if we could continue to do that moving forward. Two corrections were noted.

VOTE As amended: Laura & Glen – abstained / All others in favor. Motion passes.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

• **RFP's for Kiosks**

Dave stated that they put out a RFP last month looking for quotes on manufacturing and installing the glass fronts of the Kiosks, but they received no replies. Dave then explained the quote he did receive prior to the RFP and said the estimated cost at that time was \$1,455. Dave added that he would like to open it up for discussion and added that he doesn't mind tabling this for a month or two. Randy stated that by the amount of the quote it looks like we are getting high quality materials. Dave said each door is 4x4 and maybe instead of having one big glass door we could have two and Randy said that is not a good idea because it might not be weather resistant. Randy questioned if we know for sure that the doors will not hit the metal roof. Dave said he will have whomever does the work come out before any work is started.

Jim said he would like to table the discussion until we have the company that sent us the quote, come out and see the kiosks first.

MOTION: Jim motioned to table item until further date.

SECOND: Dave

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: All in favor. Motion passes.

•NHACC

Dave explained that Nick from NHACC was here last month explaining what NHACC does and how they can help us with. He added we were looking at a possible membership to the organization in order to utilize their resources. Jim asked what the membership costs and Dave said \$285. Laura asked if NHACC would help us with grants and Dave stated yes and asked if we want to become members. Jim stated that he would think we would want to be. Randy stated that their annual meeting is very big and has 30 to 40 education learning sessions. Tyler asked what will they do for us and Dave explained that they will keep the Commission updated on what is going on in Concord, help us with grant writing, inform us on what grants come available, and they hold education seminars. Tyler said if they can help us with just 1 grant it would be worth.

MOTION: Scott motioned to expend the cost of membership to the NHACC for the 2014 year.

SECOND: Jim

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: All in favor. Motion passes.

MOTION: Dave motioned to jump down in the agenda to New Business.

SECOND: Randy

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: All in favor. Motion passes.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

•MMRG Annual Meeting

Dave stated that Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) will be holding its Annual Meeting on Monday, February 3, from 6 to 9 pm in Wolfeboro. He added that the evening includes a silent auction, dinner, and a program as well as a brief business meeting. Dave said the Conservation Commission sent a few members last year and asked if they wanted to do the same thing again. Tyler said it was interesting and he had a good time last year. Dave asked Tyler if he and his mom wanted to go again and Tyler said yes.

MOTION: Jim motioned to for the Conservation Commission to expense the cost of attendance to the MMRG Annual Dinner for Taylor and a parent.

SECOND: Randy

DISCUSSION: Laura said she would also like to go. Jim asked to amend motion to include Laura and a guest at \$29.00 per person.

VOTE As amended: All in favor. Motion passes.

6.FYI:

•DES Correspondence

Dave explained that he received a correspondence from DES stating that they were returning the R59-4 because the application was incomplete. Dave read the items from the letter that were listed as concerns. Jim said hopefully we can get some help from our new membership to NHACC.

•Strafford Rivers Conservancy

Dave said that every month Strafford Rivers Conservancy (SRC) puts out a newsletter and this month's newsletter we are mentioned in a few places. Dave added that Anna Boudreau has retired from SRC however they do have someone who will fill her place.

•Strafford County Conservation District

Dave said that he just received a letter from Strafford County Conservation District and they are just writing to introduce themselves to our Commission. He added that they are looking for new ways to service towns in Strafford County and are wondering if we would be interested in partnering with them. Jim asked how much. Dave said the letter doesn't say and then read some of the projects they are involved with. Jim said that maybe they might be able to help us with our area. Randy said he didn't think that they are looking for a membership and they are just letting us know they can work with us on individual projects. Jim suggested they asked them to come here and talk to the Commission. Dave stated that he will follow up with them and will report back next month.

Dave asked if there were any other items or comments and there was none.

7.PUBLIC HEARING @7:00 PM - SRC/Huppe:

At 7:01 PM, Dave opened the Public Hearing and stated that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss any concerns with the involvement of placing approximately 100 acres located at 410 Meaderboro Road, Farmington into a Conservation Easement. Dave added that this is Berry Brook Farm owned by the Huppe's.

Randy excused himself from the discussion and left the room. Dave explained that Randy left because he has helped with this project and offered his surveying assistance.

Dave asked Anna to introduce herself. Anna Boudreau said she was hired to manager the conservation easement for the project. She explained that Tim Huppe could not be here, and thought the Conversation Commission might like to meet Mr. and Mrs. Huppe. Mr. and Mrs. Huppe introduced themselves. Anna said she was trying to update the budget and found that they were still short about \$11,000. She explained that there may be another grant available in about month for about \$4, 000, but that will still leave the project short so she is looking at a private donor.

Dave stated that we have a lot of Farmington High Schools here tonight and asked Anna to explain what she is doing. Anna explained that the property they are discussing is a 99 acre farm and her job is to organize the project to acquire from the Huppe's the Easement Rights to the property, as well as find funding for the project. Anna then explained landowner rights and what a conservation easement is. She told the students that when you are granted a conservation easement you are taking the right to subdivide that property from the landowner, however you are also agreeing to protect that land. Anna explained the costs involved in get a conservation easement and the cost of monitoring the land every year. She added that this whole project will cost about \$130,000. Dave explained that the reason for the Public Hearing is because the Farmington

Conservation Commission approved up to \$20,000 to be spent on this project and asked if anyone had any questions. Mr. Chamberlain asked Anna to explain to the students why this property is so important. Anna explained that this property received \$75,000 funding for several reasons including it is located in the City of Rochester's water supply protection area, is rated as a Tier I in the land conservation plan, and it contains forest and wetlands. Dave pointed out on a map the land and told the students that the areas shaded in green are our conservation priority areas and this land is located in this important area. He added that all parties feel it is a very important piece of land and then pointed to another map that showed the land is also located in a wildlife habitat and they want to protect it. Anna explained to the students that we need to have a balance between conservation land and development, and our purpose is to not protect everything.

Dave asked if there were any other comments or questions and there were none. Dave said the Commission doesn't need to vote on anything because they voted to expend up to \$20,000 on the project last month and this was a chance for the public to voice any concerns. Anna asked when the next BOS meeting will be and Dave told her she should contact the Town Administrator, Keith since they are in the middle of budget stuff right now and he is not sure of their schedule.

Dave closed the Public Hearing at 7:23 PM and then asked Randy to come back into the room.

Dave asked the students if they had any questions and one asked why Randy stepped out of the room during the meeting. Dave explained that surveys run about \$2000 and Randy is a Surveyor, so to help save money on this project, Randy offered to do the survey for us at a reduced cost. Dave added since that would be considered a conflict of interest, he had to step out.

•Meeting Minutes from OCTOBER 9th, 2013

Dave said that we need to make a correction to the October 9th meeting minutes we approved.

MOTION: Dave motioned to reopen Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes from October 9th, 2013 and make the correction to Anna Boudreau's title.

SECOND: Laura

DISCUSSION: Dave said the minutes stated that Anna Boudreau is the Property Manager and she is not, she is the Project Manager.

VOTE: All in favor. Motion passes.

Dave thanked Anna and Mr. & Mrs. Huppe for coming to the meeting.

8. MEETING DATE:

Dave said the next Conservation Commission Meeting will be February 12th, at 6:30 PM.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Jim said he has some information about Sanborn Mills Farm and plans the Conservation Commission is working on. He explained that Sanborn Mills Farm has 3 actual working farms and they provide the public with educational tours of these farms. Jim said the Commission is looking at possibly organizing a group tour of about 40 kids and adult and would like to get the school students involved, however, because these are actual working farms we will need adequate adult supervision. Jim explained that a group of them are planning on doing one of the tours themselves soon so they can get more information. Laura asked what kind of farms do they have and Jim said crops and livestock and added that all the information is on their website.

Scott said he has the stain and paint for the kiosks and he has reached out to Henry Wilson Guidance Office in regards to the Barry Conservation 4H Camp. Scott explained that the Conservation Commission put together an essay contest last year and paid for the winner to attend the camp for one week. Scott said that this year we would like to do the same but send two students to camp and added that he just sent out a letter today. Dave said that we will need to consider limiting the entries to just Farmington residents depending on the Middleton vote in March.

Randy explained that a few months ago he went to the French property with Rodney and Rodney pointed out that there may be a need to move a crossing. He added that he is planning on walking the trails Saturday and putting in stakes so that they can recognize the crossing when he is preparing the wetlands information. Randy also explained that he doesn't have a GPS and it would be easier to just plot it on the GPS if he did. Randy added that for the most part it looked good however it might not be until spring before we know what is best. Dave said we have the trail markers. Laura asked if it is possible to have a bridge over the wetlands and Randy stated that is what he was thinking too.

Dave said the Budget Committee is meeting with all the department heads and others with a budget on Saturday, January 25th and he will not be able to make that meeting. He asked if anyone can be present just in case the BC has any questions. Dave added that they don't have any changes to their budget and he will send all members a copy of the budget to review. Randy asked if Dave could send a reminder to all members the day before the meeting.

Dave thanked Mr. Chamberlain and the Farmington High school students for coming to the meeting tonight. Jim explained some of the items the Commission will be doing when the weather is better and Dave asked Mr. Chamberlain if there was anything in his curriculum that aligns with conservation or something that this Commission could help with. Mr. Chamberlain explained that his class is working on an introduction to soil mapping, and are just getting ready to start two mapping projects. Mr. Chamberlain then asked some questions about the French property and Jim suggested that Randy, Dave and Mr. Chamberlain get together to discuss it more. Mr. Chamberlain asked if there were any plans for a community clean up and Dave said we will start to talk about that at our next meeting. He added that it is usually held on a Saturday morning from 8 to 12, and they supply the gloves, bags and refreshments. Dave then outlined other opportunities that are coming up including the kiosks and blazing trails.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: At 7:52 PM, Randy motioned to adjourn.

SECOND: Jim

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: All in favor. Motion passes.

The Conservation Commission Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Cantwell, Recording Secretary