FARMINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

APRIL 9, 2014 MINUTES

**Members Present:** David Connolly, Randy Orvis, Richard Ballou, Glen Demers, Laura Bogardus

**Absent:** Tyler Smith (FHS Rep),Matt Scruton (Selectman’s Rep)

**Public:**  Nancy Spencer Smith (MMRG), Jim Horgan (plain old resident), Keith Fletcher (MMRG), Neil Johnson

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance at 6:36 p.m.**

**Public Comment**: None

**Review of March Minutes:** Laura B. motioned to accept, Randy O. seconded; passed with all in favor

**Old Business:**

1. **Thompson Easement:** Keith Fletcher spoke regarding the budget shortfall for the easement. He asked the town to donate $5000 more toward the easement, in addition to the $2000 already donated. He once again explained the expenses facing MMRG; Dave C. asked the acreage in New Durham vs that in Farmington- 80 acres in New Durham, 120 in Farmington.

Randy O. stated that he is in favor of the extra donation. He pointed out that monitoring for these properties is more than anyone had anticipated, and this seems to be where the overage is. Richard B. is also in favor of it. Randy O. expressed concern about funds left in the budget, with only one current use penalty submitted this year. He also pointed out that we don’t have much left in our funds (47K +/-). Nancy Spencer Smith of the MMRG commented that she was impressed with Randy’s knowledge and comprehension of monitoring. Neil J. asked about the budget, and what other projects may be in store for the year. Jim H. added that he believes this is a very important piece of property- as it is on the town line, is in close proximity to other easements and contains important habitat.

Dave C. mentioned that we would have to go before the Selectmen; he then moved to give $8,000, in addition to the $2,000, for a total of $10,000; seconded by Richard B.

Randy O. said that he thinks we’ll be seeing more current use income in the coming years, replenishing the Conservation Commission budget.

The movement to give an additional $8,000 passed with all in favor.

Keith F thanked the Commission for the donation.

1. **Moose Talk at the Town Hall**: The talk was very successful, with over 60 members of the public in attendance.
2. **Arbor Day:** Friday, April 25 Two quotes from Cameron’s for a Christmas tree to be planted in front of the Municipal Offices. The pricing is $335 for a 7-8’ Fraser Fir, or $325 for a 7-8’ Balsam Fir. This includes site prep, tree and installation. Dave C. will go before the board of Selectman to speak about it on Monday, April 14. Jim H. asked about the size of the tree being big enough to decorate. Dave C. confirmed that it is.
3. **Huppe Property:** Randy O. has spoken with Anna. They are waiting for a place to cross the brook to begin the survey of the property. Once the survey is done, the project should go quickly.
4. **Kiosks:** The kiosks have been stained by the individual doing community service. All that remains to be done is the lettering. Dave C. will be in touch with Granite State about the glass for the fronts of the kiosks.
5. **Spring Clean Up, April 26:** Honey Dew Donuts, one of the businesses we approached for a donation is closed. Randy O. suggested we try Irving, Dave C. will check with them. He reported that we have plenty of supplies for this year, he will be going to Epsom to pick up the blue trash bags needed. Laura B. will ask at Farmington House of Pizza for a donation since we have not yet heard back from Crowley’s. She will also check with Crowley’s next week. We are going to be cleaning Cocheco Road, Meetinghouse Hill Road and Bay Road. Dave asked if anyone has a pickup truck to help with trash pick up, as we only have one right now. Richard B. asked if we could get a writeup in the Rochester Times ahead of the clean up. Dave answered that John Nolan is aware of the clean up and Dave C will mention it again.

**New Business**:

1. Randy O. mentioned a mattress on River Road that would need to be removed

**F.Y.I.**

1. **Valley View Community School** has invited the Commission to their Leadership Day on Friday May 9 at 8:30, entitled The Leader in Me.
2. **Farmington Hay Day:**  August 23 Dave C. asked if the Commission would like to participate again this year and how many spaces they would like to have. Randy O. asked if they had enough space for everyone last year (we had three spaces), Dave said yes. We don’t yet know who would be joining us this year. Neil J asked if we would have a better spot this year, and Dave said that he would request that one- but that the one the Commission had last year would have been excellent, had the rides been open for the kids.
3. **NH11 DOT Safety Improvements**: The DOT will be holding a meeting on Monday April 21st at 7 pm at the Town Hall Gym regarding safety improvements on NH 11 at and near the intersection with 153
4. **Non Game and Endangered Wildlife Program:** Dave read a letter from them requesting a donation; the Commission decided not to donate at this time
5. **Strafford Rivers Conservancy:** Letter encouraging the Commission to renew their membership; however, the Commission does not recall being a member of the conservancy. Randy pointed out that we have given a lot to their projects in the past, without being a member.
6. **4-H Summer Camp:** Laura B will contact Scott K to get his notes and contacts at Henry Wilson. Right now, the Commission is just waiting for the students to write and submit their essays. This will happen over Spring Break.

**Upcoming Dates:**

Arbor day- 4/25/14

Town Cleanup- 4/26/14

May Commission Meeting- 5/14

**Randy O. motioned to adjourn; Glen D. seconded; passed with all in favor**