



A Bicentennial Community
1798 - 1998

Town of Farmington Conservation Commission

**356 Main Street
Farmington, NH 03835
Phone: (603) 755-2208 • Fax: (603) 755-9934**

Conservation Commission
Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Members Present: David Connolly, Randy Orvis, Laura Bogardus, Richard Ballou, Glen Demers, Matt Scruton, Board of Selectmen Representative
Members Absent: Tyler Smith, Student member Others present: Lt. Jay Drury, Farmington Police Department, Eric Chamberlain, Farmington High School Science teacher, Rod Thompson, resident

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:
Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Review of May Minutes:
Members reviewed the minutes of the May 14, 2014 meeting. Motion to correct the date of the Spring Cleanup Day to May 24, 2014 (Connolly, second Orvis) and approve the minutes as corrected passed 5-1 with Bogardus abstaining.

Little Blue Job
Commissioners met with Bill Carpenter and Neil Bilodeau (NH DRED, Division of Forests and Lands, Forest Protection Bureau) to discuss the illegal use of motorized vehicles on the trails. Discussion included resident and official reports that various motorized vehicles have been using the trail system all the way to the summit. Gates and barriers have been ineffective in restricting their entrance as drivers move or go around them to access the trails. Members determined it would be more effective to reduce illegal activity by providing better support of law enforcement by encouraging users and area residents to report illegal activities to state and local law enforcement, provide evidence to use in court such as photos of license plates and vehicles through the use of game cameras and a public relations blitz on responsible riding in cooperation with ATV clubs and dealerships. Carpenter provided members with copies of a map of the trail system

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and noted that only one of the trails had been named (Orange trail). He explained that the state has used a simple color coded system for trails in other state forests. Trails could also be named after the person or family that donated the land members said. Carpenter added that a signage project could provide an opportunity to get students involved in good public land management practices. Members noted this may also be a suitable project for an Eagle Scout candidate.

Following the discussion, members agreed to install and maintain a game camera in a peak use area and revisit the trail naming and signage project in the fall after the new school year begins.

500 Boys and Girls Club:

Randy Talon and Dan Woodman of the Farmington 500 Boys and Girls Club approached the commission with a proposal for the town to allow the purchase, donation or use of a town owned parcel of land (R36-1-1) on Paulson Road. The club currently owns a 20 acre parcel adjacent to the town conservation property, which is used for sports programs for children aged 4 to 19. Woodman said the club is interested in a 3.2 acre section of the town lot to be used to provide practice space for baseball, soccer and football teams. The site would be cleared and mowed, but no structures would be constructed. The piece is bowl-shaped and self-contained and there would be no run off to impact nearby wetlands Woodman said.

BOS rep. Scruton clarified that the recent auction of town owned land included tax-deeded parcels and that the town was not interested in selling conservation lands. He said he would not support the sale of the 3.2 acre section, but would support donating the section to the club or allowing them to use it within any stated covenants.

Motion- (Connolly, second Ballou) to allow the chairman to write a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending the town offer a long term lease of the 3.2 acre section of the property for club use with noted restrictions. The motion passed 6-0.

Acceptance of Town Forest Survey/Norway Plains:

Members reviewed a survey of the town forest. There was no discussion. Motion- to accept the survey (Orvis, second Demers) and ask the town clerk to file it. The motion passed 6-0.

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Old Business:

Spring Cleanup-Fourteen volunteers turned out to help clean up the Meetinghouse-River Roads area resulting in the removal of 49 bags of trash which weighed in at a total 750 pounds of rubbish which was hauled off to the transfer station. Members thanked the participants as well as the local businesses that provided refreshments for the group.

French Property update:

1. Marking of the trail-

Proposed trail marking has begun. The property was surveyed and members plan to place stakes every 100 feet and install informational plaques at marked points of interest. Approximately 1500 feet was marked in 3 hours and there is much more to do. Members will check their weekend availability to complete the project.

2. Request For Proposals-

A) Groom skidder/hiking trail-Connolly proposed the commission seek quotes to clean the skidder trails and offered to walk the trails with any responders and then have them submit a quote for the work. Motion-to seek RFP's for the grooming work (Scruton, second Bogardus) passed 6-0.

B) Informational Posts- Members discussed the installation of interpretive signs at points of interest along the trails that could provide pictures, descriptions or other information on the unique features, habitats and inhabitants of the area. The stations would consist of permanent pressure treated posts with changeable plaques mounted at a 45 degree angle for ease of reading. After more discussion, Demers offered to cut the posts if provided with the needed materials. Connolly will check with local businesses for possible donated materials. The commission will discuss the design and construction of the plaques as well as student involvement in the project at the next meeting.

C) Gate-Commissioners discussed the proposed installation of a gate at one end of the parking lot to allow easier access for maintenance equipment and emergency vehicles and to keep unwanted vehicles from entering the property. It was noted that a gate would be more effective than a chain or rocks. Motion to seek RFP for a purchase of

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a 10 foot gate(Bogardus,second Orvis)passed 6-0.
3.Moose Mountain Regional Greenway- Cons Com will host the MMRG who will present a public forum on Invasive Plants on July 10 at 7 p.m. at the town hall.

Town Forest:

- 1.Motion to approve \$3,000 payment to Norway Plains for town forest survey(Orvis,second Ballou)passed 6-0.
- 2.Management Plan-Motion to seek RFP's for management plan for the town forest(Orvis,second Bogardus)passed 6-0.

FYI:

Wetlands impact for lot R46-3-1 approved.
Intent to cut on Aiken Road proposed for April 2014 through March 2015 was reported.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 9,2014.

Motion to adjourn(Bogardus,second Orvis)passed 6-0 at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

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