**Town of Farmington**

***Conservation Commission- Meeting Minutes***

**Wednesday, July 9, 2014**

**5:30PM**

**Selectmen’s Chambers**

**356 Main Street**

Members Present:

Dave Connolly,Chairman

Glen Demers

Randy Orvis

Laura Bogardus

Matt Scruton,BOS rep.(late)

Members Absent:

Richard Ballou(excused)

Tyler Smith,student member

Others Present:

David Romilly,Wright-Pierce Engineering

Anna Boudreau,Strafford Rivers Conservancy/TRC Alden Beauchemin,Nobis Engineering Dale Sprague,Farmington Public Works Director Eric Chamberlain,Farmington High School teacher Rod Thompson,resident Rose Muise,resident

1.Call to order

Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2.Pledge of Allegiance

3.Public comment-none

4.Wright-Pierce Engineering - Waste Water Plant David Romilly of Wright-Pierce Engineering presented a minor impact application to improve access to the well head area as part of the phase IV upgrade to the waste water plant.The improvements are needed to allow Public Works employees passage through a wetlands with minimal impact to perform water quality sampling using pumps,meters,tubing and a tractor.The plan calls for installation of a 12' stone raft which would be covered with a layer of crushed stone.Romilly said he met with Sprague to walk the site and assess the issue and they found no problem with the plan. Motion(Orvis,second Bogardus)to accept the application and authorize the chairman to sign 7 copies of the application for submission to the state passed 4-0.

5.Huppe update

Anna Boudreau of Strafford Rivers Conservancy,presented an update on the plan to place the Huppe property located on Meaderboro Road under a conservation easement.She reported that the survey of the property showed the parcel is actually 82.5 acres instead of 98 acres as listed on the town maps.This will not affect the $75,000 grant for the project,but appraisal of the land will need to be upgraded to today's value.Two abutters have each disputed ownership of a three acre section of the property. The abutters have asked for an opportunity to review the new survey when completed and consider available options.If the disputed section does belong to the Huppe family,they have the option to subdivide it and sell it to the abutters or add it to the easement.Boudreau said the deed could be constructed with a caveat to extend the easement to that section at a later date.

Boudreau also notified the commissioners that the Strafford Rivers Conservancy will merge with the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire in October.Chairman Connolly invited the new group to introduce themselves to the commission at a meeting this fall.

6.Request For Proposal Reviews

a.French property gate-Chairman Connolly reported that no RFP's for the installation of a gate on the French property have been received.He will contact some area companies to attempt to obtain bids for the project.

b.French property skidder trail grooming-Connolly said no RFP's have received to groom rough areas on the skidder trail.He will approach local people who may be interested in the project.

c.Town forest management plan- Chairman Connolly announced receipt of an RFP from B.H.Keith Associates of Freedom,NH to provide a forest management plan for the 136 acre parcel off Bay Road.The proposal includes developing sound forest and resources management,recommended improvements to parking,viewing locations,and recreation and educational opportunities.Scope of work would include a written report of field data,protection of the watershed,and an inventory of natural resources.The plan would include the following steps to completion;discuss goals and existing data with Cons Com,complete timber,habitat and resources inventories,site walk with Cons Com members,write plan and submit to commission,and present finished plan to the public.The plan would be completed in approximately three to four months at a cost of $4,000. Motion to accept the proposal(Orvis,second Demers)passed 4-0.

7.Existing PSNH power lines work

Alden Beauchemin of Novus Engineering approached the committee to submit a utility maintenance notification form.The project is located in PSNH's existing right-of-way between Chestnut Hill Road and Spring Street and involves the removal and replacement of existing utility poles and overhead lines over an approximately 2.6 mile area.Equipment access routes have been designated so as to avoid wetlands,but where wetland crossings can't be avoided,temporary swamp mats will be used to minimize impacts.Open water areas will be accessed by barge. Beauchemin said the Code Enforcement advised the project did not require a special use permit.He added that the presentation was for informational purposes and did not require any official action by the commission.

8.Old Business

a.French Trail survey- Member Orvis reported that about 5306' of the proposed trail has been staked out.Stakes have been placed every 100'and at wetland crossings and points of interest.Members discussed possible construction and placement of bridges over wetlands,installation of doors and maps in the kiosks,as well as providing small maps of the trail area to the public.He added that Public Works employees have started work on the parking lot.Motion to authorize Orvis to sign the trail notification (Demers,second Bogardus)passed 4-0. Members will meet at the parking lot on Hornetown Road at 9 a.m. on Monday,July 21 to perform a site walk.

b.Hay Day-Members discussed plans to participate in the town Hay Day scheduled for August 23.Discussion included possible displays and groups willing to participate or submit a display or information.The committee agreed to rent a canopy,tables and chairs from Taylor Rental for the event.

c.Farmington High School teacher Eric Chamberlain presented student assignment responses regarding possible descriptions of natural features,such as a vernal pool,that could be posted at points of interest along trail areas.Members also commended high school students for performing yearly water testing of the Cocheco River.

9.New business-none

10. Review of minutes

Motion to table June 11,2014 minutes(Orvis,second Scruton)passed 5-0.

11.FYI

Chairman Connolly reminded members that the Invasive Plants Workshop, hosted by Moose Mountain Regional Greenways is scheduled for Thursday,July 10 at 7 p.m. at the town hall.

12.Next meeting date- August 13,2014 at 6:30 p.m.

13.Adjournment

Motion to adjourn(Demers,second Bogardus)passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

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