

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission- Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 10, 2014, 2014
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street

Farmington Conservation Commission
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Members Present:

Dave Connolly, chairman
Randy Orvis, vice chairman
Laura Bogardus, Secretary
Rose Muise
Resta Detwiler
Morgan Hagar, Student Rep.
Olyvia Brault, Student Rep.

Members Absent:

Richard Ballou, excused
Jaquelin Bissett, excused

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. Review of Minutes:

November 12, 2014-Motion: (Detwiler, second Orvis) to accept the minutes as submitted passed 5-0.

5. Town Forest Management Plan Update/BH Keith:

Chairman Connolly reported that the representative from BH Keith was unable to attend tonight's meeting and has rescheduled for the January meeting. He said the fieldwork for the plan has been completed and the research and paperwork phase is underway.

6. Old Business:

A) TF Grant-Chairman Connolly told the commission that unfortunately, the town was not awarded the \$4,000 Conservation Moose Plate grant provided by the State Conservation Committee. There were so many applications, that only a small portion of them could be funded he said. Connolly said he will contact the grant administrator to discuss what can be done to increase the chances of being awarded a grant in future funding rounds.

B) Brochures/Laura B.-Member Bogardus reported that she researched printing costs for the brochures to be placed in the kiosk on trail at the French property. She reported that Vista Print quoted a cost of \$191.24 for 500 copies (38 cents ea.), \$297.45 for 1,000 (30 cents ea.) on glossy paper. Staples quoted \$179.99 for 500 copies (36 cents ea.) and \$311.99 for 1,000 copies (32 cents ea.) but she was not sure if the quote was for glossy or plain paper. Bogardus said she would check back with Staples for additional information, look into costs for more durable or weather-resistant paper and obtain additional quotes from local

printers. Student member Hagar said she would check to see if the printing could be done at the high school.

C) Blue Job Update/Rose, Jaquelin-Member Muise reported that she has not heard back from Dept. of Resources and Economic Development regarding the signage for the trails on Blue Job Mountain. Member Bogardus said she is still working on getting the Boy Scouts to help with the project. Student member Hagar said she would contact the high school shop teacher to see if there is interest in making wood signs for the project. The commission also discussed getting the younger students involved by having them pick the colors and names for the trails. Member Muise will contact Valley View School teacher Ann Skeffington to discuss student involvement in the project.

D) MMRG Mixer/Dave, Laura-Chairman Connolly told members the mixer provided an opportunity to meet with other Conservation Commission members and discuss issues of concern. He said he met many good contacts and learned that Conservation Commissions are allowed to conduct fund raising events to help increase available funds. He also found that other towns could look to the Farmington Cons Com for help and advice when experiencing similar situations as faced here. He added that the NH Association of Conservation Commissions is doing a lot of good in Concord, such as lobbying against bills detrimental to conservation and commissions, and recommended the commission continue its membership in the NH ACC. Member Bogardus said she found the event very helpful and informative and a good opportunity to meet other members and learn what other towns are doing.

E) Bylaw Amendment Acceptance (Signatures)-Chairman Connolly asked members to sign copies of the amendment to the Cons Com bylaws approved at the last meeting. The amendment would change Article 9 A III to allow up to two students, chosen by faculty, to become student representatives to the commission. Members signed the amendments which will be turned in to the Town Clerk's office.

F) Any Other Old Business- Chairman Connolly reported receipt of a \$1,600 grant from Strafford Rivers Conservancy/UNH for the Huppe property project.

Member Muise said she is still researching costs for T-shirts and bracelets with the Cons Com logo. She asked if the commission wanted to keep the tan color for the shirts or change to another color. Connolly suggested she get six color samples for members to consider.

7. New Business:

A) NHACC Exposure/Dave-Chairman Connolly said he was contacted by NHACC Public Relations Assistant Emily Lord who requested a list of the commission's accomplishments for 2014. He said the list should include conservation easements for the French, Huppe and Thompson properties, the Town Forest, the spring cleanup, Arbor Day, and increasing student involvement. The list of accomplishments will be featured in an upcoming edition of the association's newsletter. Connolly said Lord also asked if a commission member would be interested in speaking to other town Conservation Commissions about how particular concerns are handled. Member Orvis volunteered to represent the commission as time allows.

B) 2015 Meeting dates-Chairman Connolly presented a list of dates for commission meetings next year. He noted that meetings are normally scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. except for

the month of March. Due to town elections/town meeting, the March meeting has been moved to March 18 he said. The list also notes projected dates for events such as Earth Week, Arbor Day and Hay Day. Meeting times and dates are subject to change and may include special meetings as needed. C) Any Other New Business-Member Orvis suggested the commission consider hosting a public forum on insects. He said this is a serious issue and cited the destruction of Ash trees and the prohibition on importing fire wood into the county due to insect infestation in some areas in the state. Members suggested the forum be held on a Thursday night in January or February in the gym at the town hall. Member Muise will bring the request to the next Recreation Dept. meeting and check on the availability of the town hall.

Chairman Connolly told members he received a thank you letter from Moose Mountain Regional Greenways Executive Director Virginia Long for the commission's \$8,000 donation to fund the Thompson property easement. The easement will keep the land from development, protect wildlife, water and habitats and allow for yearly monitoring of the site she said.

8. FYI:

Chairman Connolly reported receipt of a notice that the Letter of Deficiency for the Farmington Country Club has been resolved. The club had been cited for unstable conditions along the Cocheco River.

Member Orvis reported receipt of two notices of intent to cut for properties located on Map R66, Lot 01 and Map R10, Lot 3-1.

9. January Meeting Date-January 14, 2015

10. Any Other Business:

Chairman Connolly welcomed Resta Detwiler as a new full time member and Olyvia Brault and Morgan Hagar as the new student reps to the commission. He urged the students to bring information back to their classmates and noted that "you will take our place someday".

11) Adjournment:

Motion: (Orvis, second Bogardus) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 7:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary
