**Town of Farmington**

***Conservation Commission- Meeting Minutes***

**Wednesday, October 8, 2014**

**6:30PM**

**Selectmen’s Chambers**

**356 Main Street**

 Farmington Conservation Commission

 Wednesday,October 8,2014

Members Present: Members Absent:

Dave Connolly,Chairman Glen Demers

Randy Orvis,Vice Chairman

Laura Bogardus

Richard Ballou

Rose Muise

Matt Scruton,BOS rep.(late)

Jacquelin Bissell

Others Present:

Resident Rod Thompson

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 Sept.17,2014 minutes:

Under "Others Present" change "Rita"(Detwiler) to "Resta".

Motion(Orvis,second Connolly)to approve the minutes as amended passed 6-0.

5.Minimum Impact Expedited Wetland Application:

Randy Orvis,Certified Wetland Scientist at Geometres Blue Hills LLC. presented a Minimum Impact Expedited Dredge and Fill Permit Application on behalf of Dustin Vachon of Rochester,NH.The applicant proposes to build a single family home with a driveway on land located at 300 Hornetown Road(Tax Map R-52,Lot 15). The purpose of the application is to obtain NH DES Wetlands Bureau approval to install two driveway culverts which would impact 736 feet of wetlands.The proposed location of the driveway would follow an existing logging road and is not within the 100 foot buffer zone from the Mad River Orvis said.He said the lot was part of a 2005 subdivision plan,but it may have existed before that date,so it is not clear if there is a need for a special use application.Motion(Ballou,second Bogardus)to accept the application and authorize Chairman Connolly to sign it passed 6-0.

6.Report on Blue Job Hike:

Chairman Connolly and member Bissell reported on their participation

in the Blue Job Mountain hike hosted by the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways on September 27.About 30 people participated in the six mile hike(three miles up and three miles back)which took about four hours to complete.Sights along the way included cellar holes and an old well that still contained water as well as a tricycle.Connolly said those involved had a good time at the event and pictures have been posted on FaceBook.

7.New Business:

A)Bylaws-Chairman Connolly asked members to conduct the yearly review of the commission's bylaws.Any suggested changes or additions must be made in writing to the Chairman in November for discussion in December and voted on in January.Copies of the most current bylaws may be obtained from Selectmen's Secretary Megan Taylor-Fetter or Town Clerk Kathy Seaver.

B)2015 Budget-Commissioners reviewed and discussed the proposed operating budget totaling

$2,969 for 2015.Anticipated expenses include membership dues and annual meetings,RFP/Public Notices,events(Hay Day,Arbor Day,Clean Up Day),Campership,Conservationist Award,Community Outreach,security camera and equipment and secretary's wages.The proposal is $31 less than the 2014 budget which totaled $3,000.Some of the expenses are based on 2014 rates and it is not known if increases are planned Connolly said.No action was taken.

C)Any other new business-Chairman Connolly noted the moon was in the phase known as the"Blood Moon"which is a total lunar eclipse that appears red due to reddish sunlight reflecting off the moon's surface.It was reported that the best viewing occurred at 4 a.m. that morning and was not observed by some members.

8.Old Business:

A)French Property Brochures-Member Bogardus presented a draft of a brochure that will be placed in the kiosk located at the trail head parking area.The tri-fold brochure depicts a map of the property on one side and a short welcoming message,a list of permitted uses and a contribution form on the other side.Discussion included removing horseback riding from permitted uses as some of the brush areas and bridges may not be suitable for horses.Suggested additions to the list of non-permitted uses included no campfires,no wheeled motorized vehicles(snowmobiles permitted),and no dumping.Other changes may include a history of the property and a request that users follow the "pack-in,pack-out"policy that asks users to remove everything from the area that they brought in. Bogardus said she would work with Rodney Thompson to improve the clarity of the map and include the suggested changes.Members were asked to e-mail any other suggested additions or corrections before the next meeting in November.Commissioners will then approve the final draft and send it to be printed.

Chairman Connolly reported that trail notification for the French property has been received from NH DES.He plans to attend the next Boy Scout meeting in November and discuss some of the projects the commission is working on and request their help.He added that the Highway Department has completed installation of large rocks adjacent to the gate on the property to prevent unauthorized vehicles from going around it and damaging the trails.

B)Town Forest Update-Chairman Connolly told members that the kiosk has been installed at the site.A yellow sign,providing notice of a multi-use area and a red sign,prohibiting dumping were provided by the State of NH,Landowner Division and placed in the kiosk.Member Orvis reported that work is continuing on the management plan and noted that one of the next steps includes obtaining an aerial photo which shows the entrance to the forest.He said stage two of the plan is expected to be completed in November or December.

C)Small Grant Application-Chairman Connolly said the application for a grant from the Moose Plate Grant Program has been approved and submitted.If awarded,the $4,000 grant will be used to fund the Town Forest Management Plan.Connolly thanked Planning Director Kathy Menici,the Board of Selectmen,the Planning Board and the Society for the Protection of NH Forests for their assistance.

D)FHS/Cons Com liaison- Chairman Connolly asked if a member was interested in becoming the liaison between Farmington High School and the Conservation Commission.This person would be the contact person for questions,information and setting up meetings.Member Bogardus volunteered for the position and received the necessary contact information.

E)Any Other Old Business-

 1.Motion(Connolly,second Scruton)to revisit the minutes of July 9,2014 passed 7-0.

Connolly reported receipt of an e-mail from Anna Boudreau requesting a change to the July minutes. Boudreau said she was listed as representing the Strafford Rivers Conservancy for the Huppe property project.She said that she had resigned her position there and was representing Truslow Resource Consulting for the Huppe project and asked that the minutes reflect her correct employer.

 2.French gate-Chairman Connolly said he received a quote for materials only(installation not included)for the gate totaling $929.66.He said the gate must be at least 10 feet wide,lockable and be of sturdy construction to resist being forced open.Selectman Scruton suggested a member check the cost of gates at the Tractor Supply store in Rochester.He also suggested the town highway crew may be able to install the gate and said he will speak to the Town Administrator about the matter.Members Muise and Bissell volunteered to check local stores for further pricing information.

9.NHACC Annual Meeting:

Chairman Connolly reminded members of the upcoming Annual Meeting of the N.H. Association of Conservation Commissions to be held on Nov.1 from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Laconia Middle School.The cost to attend the meeting is $50 per person when registering by Oct.22. Motion(Ballou,second Muise)to expend up to $200 to send four reps to the NHACC Annual Meeting passed 7-0. Members must notify the chairman by Friday if they are planning to attend.

10.WET Training:

UNH will hold a series of training sessions entitled "Project Wet,Wild and Wild Aquatics"on Nov.5,12,and 19 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Manchester campus.The $150 cost per attendee covers training members to teach conservation programs to other organizations,certificates of completion and curriculum books which can be used for community outreach. Motion(Bogardus,second Bissell)to expend up to $450 to send three reps to the WET training offered by UNH passed 7-0.

11.FYI's:

A)Expenditure was approved for the Huppe conservation easement.The invoice has been received.

B)NH DES has issued a dredge and fill permit to restore approximately 255 feet of eroded area located behind St.Peter's Church.

C)An invoice totaling $73 from Geometres Blue Hills,LLC for trail work at the French property has been received($25 fee,$48 for grade stakes). Motion(Connolly,second Bogardus)to pay Goemetres Blue Hills $73 passed 6-0-1(Orvis abstained).

12.Nov.Meeting Date:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday,November 12,2014 at 6:30 p.m.

13.Any Other Business:

A)Chairman Connolly said he will be out of town from October 12-19 and Vice Chairman Orvis is next in command.

B)Member Muise reported her research regarding the availability of Tee shirts and other items imprinted with the Conservation Commission logo.She said 20 Tee shirts could be purchased for about $200.Connolly requested she include a wider range of Tee shirt sizes and a larger quantity of shirts in her additional research.Muise said she will also look into the cost of sweatshirts and wristbands.The matter will be included on a future agenda once all of the information is obtained.

14.Adjournment:

Motion(Bogardus,second Scruton)to adjourn the meeting passed 7-0 at 8 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

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