**Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission
Wednesday, February 11, 2015**

**Members Present**: **Members Absent:**
Dave Connolly, Chairman Richard Ballou, excused
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman Jacquelin Bissell, excused
Laura Bogardus Olyvia Brault, Student Rep., excused Rose Muise
Morgan Hagar, Student Rep.
Resta Detwiler
**Others Present:**
Resident Rodney Thompson

**1. Call to Order:**Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:**All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Public Comment:** None

**4. Review of Minutes:**January 2015- Tabled to the next meeting.

**5. Old Business:
A).DRED Report-** Member Muise reported that she has not yet been contacted by anyone from the Dept. of Resources and Economic Development regarding the trail signs for Blue Job Mountain. She is awaiting a copy of the map to be generated by the dept. and information on placement and number of signs to be installed. Members discussed the number of signs needed and how the state’s lack of response could delay the project which also involves elementary students who will pick the names and colors for the trails and the high school shop class who will produce the signs. Chairman Connolly estimated that the project will entail about 15 to 20 signs but noted that since it is a state forest, it is the state’s call on the number and placement of the signs. He explained that the signs will make it easier for the public to navigate the trails and may help reduce the number of lost hikers and the cost to rescue them. Discussion also included preventing damage done to the area by motorized vehicles. Vice Chairman Orvis suggested contacting the Strafford County Conservation Commission for additional assistance. Chairman Connolly then advised Muise to e-mail DRED once a month to check for progress on the matter.  **B). VVCS Report-** Member Muise reported that she has discussed the trail naming project with the third grade teacher at the Valley View Community School. The teacher plans to teach students about the history and attributes of the area while they are participating in the project. She suggested the teacher be given a copy of the recently completed Town Forest Management Plan, which contains a map and other information, to help with her lesson plan as soon as it is returned from the high school.  **C). French Report-** Vice Chairman Orvis said there was nothing new to report on the matter. **D). Brochure Report-** Member Bogardus presented the new tri-fold brochures that will be placed in the kiosk at the Town Forest. The brochure is printed on glossy paper to better stand up to weather conditions and contains a map of the property and allowed uses. There is also a portion that allows users to make a contribution to the commission if they so desire. Members reviewed the brochure and said they were pleased with the results. Discussion included which organizations, businesses, schools and town departments would be asked to display the brochures. Bogardus said she would try to enlist a volunteer to construct a receptacle that could be added to the kiosk to contain the brochures. She presented a bill for 1,000 brochures to the Chairman who stated no action was needed as the commission had already approved payment of the bill. **E). Invasive Insect Forum Report-** Chairman Connolly reported that the Invasive Insect Forum is set for Monday, March 16, 2015 at the Town Hall gymnasium located at 531 Main Street, Farmington. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation will be provided by UNH Cooperative Extension Field Specialist Wendy Scribner from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways. Snacks, coffee and water will be provided by the commission and the coffee maker, cups and the lectern will be donated by Taylor Rental. **F). Tee Shirt Report-** Member Muise said there was nothing new to report about the shirts. She added that she is stilling researching the shirts and wristbands for more cost effective offers. **G). FHS Report-** Student Rep. Hagar reported that Farmington High School Environmental Sciences teacher Eric Chamberlain has been encouraging students to get involved with the commission and to attend their monthly meetings. One-quarter of their grade involves participation in a related subject she said. Chairman Connolly encouraged her to tell her classmates and Mr. Chamberlain about the subjects discussed at the meetings and the projects the commission is undertaking. He also asked her to return the copy of the Town Forest Management Plan from the high school to the commission.Chairman Connolly then asked the board if they wished to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire someone to implement the Town Forest Management Plan. Vice Chairman Orvis said he would like the opportunity to read the plan before they write up an RFP. Discussion also included possible uses for the parcel known as the Lawrence property. The property consists of 46 acres and has no existing restrictions. Suggestions included construction of an educational center, a Boy Scout campout area and revival of the mill pond to allow fishing at the site. Members decided to table the development of an RFP until after they have read the plan.

**H). Conservationist of the Year-** Chairman Connolly said that each year the commission chooses a person or town business that has made a significant contribution to conservation efforts in town. This year, after seeking nominations on the Farmington News Face Book page for three months, the list includes seven candidates plus an option for a write-in candidate. Rodney and Judy Thompson were on the list for donating their property to conservation, but Thompson asked to have their names removed from consideration as they received the award in 2013. Other nominees included FHS teacher Eric Chamberlain (for his continuing efforts at student involvement), Donald and Sylvia Whittum (for their donation of 100 acres of land), Randy Orvis (for 26 years as a valuable commission member), Cameron’s Home Center(for donations of trees, men and equipment, and land swap of three acres along the Mad River), Geraldine and Maurice Huppe (for donating 79 acres of land), and Robert and Debbie Leary (for improvements to Horne Town Road property). Members voted by secret ballot and then commission Secretary Bogardus tallied the results. She announced a three-way tie between Eric Chamberlain, Randy Orvis and Cameron’s Home Center. Members then discussed how to resolve the issue.
**Motion:** (Bogardus, second Connolly) to award each of the three tied nominees as this year’s winners passed 4-0-1 (Connolly, Bogardus, Detwiler, Muise-yes, Orvis-abstained).
Member Muise suggested the award be given to Mr. Chamberlain at a school assembly at the high school. Chairman Connolly agreed to make the presentation and Student Rep. Hagar agreed to speak to the Principal about the arrangements.

**I). Any Other Old Business-** Chairman Connolly said he has been informed that teachers at the Henry Wilson Middle School plan to collect essays from students interested in attending the Barry 4H Conservation Camp for a week this summer before the February school vacation. The finalists will make a presentation to the commission at their March 16 meeting and then the members will choose the attendee.
**Motion:** Connolly, second Bogardus) to take a 10 minute break passed 5-0 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

**6. New Business:
A).MMRG Dues 2015-** Chairman Connolly reported that it is time to pay the 2015 membership dues for Moose Mountain Regional Greenways. He explained the benefits of membership in the group such as assistance with grant writing, maps, research, forums and community activities and outreach services. The group is made up of Conservation Commission and Planning Board members from the towns of Brookfield, Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham and Wakefield and dues are $100 per year he said. **Motion:** (Orvis, second Bogardus) to pay $100 for continued membership in the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways passed 5-0.Vice Chairman Orvis reported the hike scheduled by the group for the previous week was cancelled due to inclement weather. It will be rescheduled in the spring he said. **B). Any Other New Business-** Chairman Connolly told the commission that the land swap between the town and Cameron’s Home Center has been completed but the parcel has not been turned over to the commission. He said he expects the matter will come before the Board of Selectmen following the Annual Town Meeting in March for their approval and to complete the transfer of the property to the commission.

**7. FYI:**
**A). Receipt of Intent to Cut Notices-** Vice Chairman Orvis reported receipt of two Intent to Cut Notices. The first notice is for Tax Map R10, Lot 3, on Meadorboro Road. Six acres of the 13.62 acre parcel will be cut. The second notice is for Tax Map R6, Lot 4. Thirty-five of the 69 acres will be cut he said.

**8. March Dates:**Chairman Connolly reminded members of the following upcoming important dates in March: March 10 - Town Elections
March 11 - Annual Town Meeting
March 16 - Invasive Insects Forum
March 18 - Conservation Commission meeting

**9. Any Other Business:**
Chairman Connolly told the commission that he discovered that they did not receive a grant to pay for the development of the Town Forest Management Plan because the application for the grant was not complete. He suggested that in the future, the commission seek assistance with grant applications from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions.

**10. Adjournment:
Motion:** (Orvis, second Bogardus) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 8:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary