**Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2015**

**Members Present:**Dave Connolly, Chairman Randy Orvis, Vice ChairmanResta DetwilerJerry McCarthy, Selectmen’s Rep.Jacquelin Bissett

**Members Absent:**Laura Bogardus-excusedRichard Ballou- excusedRose Muise- excusedOlyvia Brault, Student Rep. - excusedMorgan Hagar, Student Rep.- excused

**Others Present:**Resident Rod ThompsonFarmington High School Science teacher Eric ChamberlainFHS Students: R. J. Wood, Matt Chase, K. Texeira, Shaine Bodio, Tristin Condon, Libby Brooks

**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 March 18, 2015 Minutes:**Page 1, item 12A; change 2nd line from “Owner” to “General Manager”.  **Motion:** Connolly, second Detwiler) to approve the minutes as amended passed 4-0-1(McCarthy abstained).

**5). Election of Officers:***Chairman:*
**Motion:** (McCarthy, second Orvis) to appoint Dave Connolly as Chairman passed 5-0.*Vice Chairman:*
**Motion:** (Connolly, second Bissett) to appoint Randy Orvis as Vice Chairman passed 4-0-1(Orvis abstained).*Secretary:*
**Motion:** (Detwiler, Connolly) to appoint Laura Bogardus as Secretary passed 5-0.

**6). Old Business:
*A). Earth Day*- *Final Preparations/Resta*-** Chairman Connolly said the 2015 Earth Day Clean-Up is set for Saturday, April 25 from 8 a.m. to noon with a rain date of Saturday, May 2. Member Detwiler reported that the informational flyers for the event have been distributed to approximately 40 businesses, schools and town buildings. The local media and the Police and Fire Departments have also been notified. Several of the local businesses will donate refreshments, but there is a need for donations of water and diet and regular soda. Donors will receive thank letters and participants will receive a certificate following the event she said.
Connolly added that Police Chief Jay Drury has agreed to participate in the trash pick-up and his department will try to have additional officers on hand to provide protection for participants. The Fire Department has a sign-up sheet seeking participants and the Public Works Director has agreed to provide cautionary signs for areas being cleaned and to allow the use of a highway department vehicle to pick up the trash bags for deposit at the Transfer Station. Connolly noted that past clean-ups have averaged between 12-18 participants and collected between one and two tons of trash.  ***B). Arbor Day/Dave-*** Chairman Connolly reported that he spoke to administrators at the Farmington Children’s Center regarding the donation of trees to the facility to commemorate Arbor Day which is celebrated on April 24. He said they would be very happy to accept the trees and have agreed to meet with a representative of Cameron’s Home and Garden Center to discuss the best type of tree for that area and locations for planting. Connolly said he will touch base with them again to review their plans and the details for an Arbor Day ceremony. ***C). French/Dubois Monitoring/Dave***- Chairman Connolly told the commission that the monitoring has not been completed due to bad weather and conflicting schedules. He said he hopes to schedule it for next month.  ***D). NHACC Town Forest Walk/Dave***- Chairman Connolly said the walk with the NH Association of Conservation Commissions at the Town Forest was also canceled due to bad weather. He will inform the members when the walk has been rescheduled.

**E). Any Other Old Business:
*1). French Property Trail Work***- Vice Chairman Orvis reported that he has not heard from the Boy Scouts about his offer to walk the trail with the troop to view areas needing bridge construction. Troop member R.J. Wood said the troop has not discussed the matter recently and offered to bring it up at the next troop meeting. Orvis said now that the snow levels have decreased it would be a good time to show Scoutmaster Glenn Hayes and interested troop members around the property.
***2). Dubois Property***- Selectman Jerry McCarthy asked if there is map/brochure available for the Dubois property. Chairman Connolly said presently there is no map for the property and explained that public access to the 200 acre property is tough due to a lack of level entrances or marked trails. Vice Chairman Orvis added that to get across the river there it would require a substantial access and also noted that there is no suitable area for public parking.

**7). New Business:
*A). Knox Box/Dave***- Chairman Connolly said the Fire Department has expressed concerns about access to town conservation lands in the event of a fire or rescue due to locked gates on the properties. The department has suggested the gates be outfitted with lock boxes that can all be opened with one code or key and contain a key to the gate inside the box. He said there are currently three locked gates- one each on the French, Smith and Town Forest properties, with a second one planned for the French property. He explained there are two types of boxes- hinged or lift-off, and three colors are available. A tamper proof switch is also available at extra cost he said. After some discussion, members decided to go with the least expensive model to be installed at each of the gates. **Motion:** (Orvis, second Bissett) to approve spending up to $555.00 for three black, hinged units unless the Fire Department prefers another style passed 5-0.
Chairman Connolly will contact the Fire Department to inform them of the commission’s decision and obtain their recommendations. ***B). Donation Thank You Letter/Dave***- Chairman Connolly told the commission that he has started a log to record donations received by the commission. He said he will record the name, amount and purpose of donation and send a thank you letter to the donor. He presented a draft of the letter to members for their consideration and approval.  **Motion:** (Connolly, second Orvis) to approve the thank you letter as written passed 5-0.  ***C). Any Other New Business***- Chairman Connolly reported receipt of a $50 donation from Jay Fortune who suggested the Hornetown, Bay and River Roads areas be included in the Spring Clean-Up.

**8). DRED/Blue Job Report/Dave**:
Chairman Connolly said he met with a representative of the Department of Resources and Economic Develop to discuss progress on the trail signs for Blue Job Mountain. The department has determined that 14 signs are needed for the trails and has provided the language for the signs. He gave the information to the high school Industrial Arts teacher where the signs will be made. The state will pay for the cedar posts and will reimburse the high school for the materials used to make the signs. Installation is scheduled for sometime this summer or fall he said.

**9). Valley View Community School Report/Rose**: Tabled due to Member Muise’s absence.

**10). FHS Report/Morgan, Olyvia**:
Chairman Connolly told the commission that Student Reps. Olyvia Brault and Morgan Hagar have submitted their resignations from the commission due to work commitments. He invited Mr. Chamberlain to give the high school report.
Mr. Chamberlain said he was happy to see seven students in attendance at meeting. He reported his Environmental Science class has been wrapping up their maple syrup collection project and noted that it was a slow and late season this year. He added that the classes have also been learning about global climate changes by looking for signs in the local climate conditions.
Chairman Connolly then invited the students to consider becoming a Student Representative to commission. He explained the duties and requirements of the board to the students. He said that one duty is promote conservation education and noted that the first student rep has gone on to study wildlife education in college.

**11). Interview with J. Gorman/Dave:**
Chairman Connolly said he was interviewed by University Maine, Orono student Janet Gorman about the public education of invasive insects. He said she was collecting data regarding public awareness of the pests and who is more helpful in this endeavor, the state or local agencies. Connolly said the hour long discussion included the recent public hearing on invasive insects co-sponsored by the Farmington Conservation Commission and the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways.

**12). MMRG Annual Meeting/Dave**:
The Annual Meeting of the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways will be held on April 12, 2015 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Kingswood Golf Club. Chairman Connolly asked for members interested in attending. Members Bogardus, Bissell and Detwiler will attend.
**Motion:** (Connolly, second McCarthy) to spend $90 to have three commission members attend the meeting passed 5-0.

**13). FYI:
*A). Community Gardens***- Volunteers are needed to upkeep the gardens. A meeting to discuss the future of the gardens was held on April 4th which attended by members Detwiler and Muise. Discussion included how many plots have been sold, finding someone to mow the area this season and finding volunteers to perform the needed maintenance of the lots.  ***B). Other***- None.

**14). Upcoming Dates:**

***A).*** Arbor Day- 4-24-15

***B).*** Earth Day Clean-Up 4-25-15 (5-2-15)

***C).*** May Meeting- 5-13-15

**D).** Other- None.

**15). Any Other Business:** None.

**16). Adjournment:**

**Motion:** (Orvis, second McCarthy) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 7:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

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