Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, August 12, 2015

**Commission Members Present:**Dave Connolly, Chairman
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Jackie Bissell
Resta Detwiler
Laura Bogardus, Secretary
Richard Ballou
Jerry McCarthy, Selectmen’s Rep.

Rose Muise

**Others Present:**Rod Thompson, resident
Steven Riker, Ambit Engineering
Steven Haight, Haight Engineering
Barry Keith, BH Keith Associates

**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). Minimum Impact Expedited Wetland Permit:**Steven Riker of Ambit Engineering and Steven Haight of Haight Engineering came before the commission seeking approval for a minimum impact expedited wetland permit for a 400 acre property located at 527 Meaderboro Road. The proposal includes maintenance dredging for two ponds that have existed since 1962 and the creation of a third pond in the center of the lot. The two existing ponds have fallen into disrepair and are in need of new outlet structures. The outlet structure for the three ponds will consist of 36 inch plastic pipes with 24 inch outlets to allow for the use of a water wagon to irrigate the trees on the site. Future plans include installation of an irrigation system Riker said. He added the project qualifies for minimum impact application as all of the ponds are less than 20,000 square feet each. The plan also includes enhancement of the surrounding areas with plants and seed mixtures appropriate for wetland areas he said.
**Motion:** (Orvis, second McCarthy) to authorize Chairman Connolly to sign the minimum impact expedited wetland permit passed unanimously. Chairman Connolly then signed the application.

**4). B H Keith:***A). Extend Existing Contract*- Chairman Connolly told the commission that the five year contract with BH Keith Associates will expire at the end of November and asked the members to consider renewing the contract. Discussion included length of the extension, management plans for the French property, subcontracting the work and availability of grants to fund projects.
**Motion:** (McCarthy, second Ballou) to approve a one year extension on the contract with BH Keith Associates passed unanimously.
*B).French Woodcock Area*- Members discussed previous work conducted in the Woodcock singing ground and the recommended maintenance cycle for the area.
*C). French Trail System*- Chairman Connolly told Barry Keith that the commission has had difficulty completing the trail system on the French property due to the lack of help. Mr. Keith said he would like the opportunity to walk the site, view what has been done, determine if there are any issues and then return to the commission with a work plan for review by members.

**5).Old Business:**A). Hay Day-Final Preparation:
*1).Participants/Activities*- Chairman Connolly reported the following groups have agreed to participate at the Cons Com display at Hay Day on August 22: Moose Mountain Regional Greenways (informational materials), Moose Mountain Reservation (representative), 4-H Co-op, York Wildlife Center (appearance from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.) and the NH Fish and Game (Fur and Skull Kit). He added that the bug display is not available.
*2).Needed Supplies-* three pop-up tents, eight tables and 10 chairs, trail maps, donation jar, easel and overlay map will be supplied by members.
*3). Coverage*- Members Ballou, McCarthy and Bogardus volunteered for morning coverage and Chairman Connolly and Detwiler will be available for the entire day. Connolly said set-up begins at 7 a.m. at the TD Bank.
B). Update: Cameron/Ronci properties- Chairman Connolly reported that the town attorney has prepared easement deeds turning ownership of the two properties over from the town to the Conservation Commission. Plans for the Ronci property include a handicapped accessible fishing area at the three acre site located just before the bridge on River road. Vice Chairman Orvis expressed concerns that some of the wording in the deed may prevent the commission from proceeding with the plans to build the access depending on how the restrictions listed are interpreted. Chairman Connolly said he will consult with the town attorney about his concerns.
Connolly said that the Cameron/town property swap will provide more river frontage and increase the ability to get more fish stocked there. He explained that if accepted, the commission signs the deeds, Selectmen then sign the deeds and the documents are then recorded.
**Motion:** (Ballou, second Orvis) to accept the Cameron property deed as presented passed unanimously.
C). Smith Visit- Chairman Connolly reported on his visit with Mr. and Mrs. Smith. He said they were pleased with the condition of their property following a walk of the site. They asked to have a hanging tree taken down and agreed to pay any costs related to pulling the tree down. They also gave permission to place a security camera inside the property and made a $200 donation to the Conservation fund he said.
D). French Map Box- Chairman Connolly thanked Laura and Laura Bogardus and Tom Sorenson for building and installation of the map box in the French property parking lot on Hornetown Road. He also thanked them for removal of a tree hindering access to the site.
E). Town Forest Update- None.
F). Any Other Old Business: Aquifer Protection Overlay District- Resta Detwiler reported she attended the first meeting of the Planning Committee hosted by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission held on July 28. The purpose of the committee is to develop revisions to the town’s Aquifer Protection Overlay District. The members discussed review of the project and schedules, the role and responsibilities of the planning committee, public engagement in the project and the next steps. She noted that the area around wellhead no. six needs to be protected as it provides 55% of the drinking water for the town but was not included in the original overlay district plan. The well is also in the TIF District. Attendees from Farmington included Town Administrator Arthur Capello, Public Works Director Dale Sprague, Planning Board Rep. Martin Laferte and Conservation Commission members Detwiler and Jackie Bissell. The next meeting is scheduled for August 25 at 2 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Chambers in the Municipal Building.
**6). New Business:**
A). Wetlands Course- Member Detwiler will attend a wetlands delineation course scheduled for this Friday.
B). Wetlands Assessment Binder- Chairman Connolly requested funding to purchase the Wetlands Assessment Binder at a cost of $18.
**Motion:** (Orvis, second Ballou) to authorize expenditure of $18 for purchase of a copy of the Wetlands Assessment Binder passed 8-0.
C). Anti-Littering Campaign- Member Detwiler suggested the development of an anti-litter program in the schools in an effort to educate students about the dangers and costs caused by littering. She suggested a poster contest and various topics for the contest. She will contact the Valley View Elementary School Principal and teacher Pam Skeffington to discuss putting together a program.
D). Any Other New Business- F. Y. I. – Intent to cut, Map R12, Lot 01, Ten Rod Road, cutting 170 acres of a 207 property, mixed woods.

**7). Review of Minutes-** July 8, 2015- Page 2, #6, change “plague” to “plaque” in two places.
**Motion:** (Bogardus, second Ballou) to accept the minutes as amended passed unanimously.

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

**9). Adjournment:**
**Motion:** (Bogardus, second Ballou) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 8 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary