Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2015

**Commission Members Present:**Dave Connolly, Chairman
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Richard Ballou
Laura Bogardus
Resta Detwiler
Rose Muise

**Commission Members Absent:**
Jerry McCarthy, Selectmen’s Rep.
Jackie Bissell

**Others Present:**Rod Thompson, resident

**1).Call to Order:**Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

**3). Public Comment:** None.

**4). Review of Minutes:***August 12*- Page 1- amend to add Rose Muise to members present. Page 2- Item 5, Old Business, Hay Day(A) – Amend “Reserve” to “Reservation”; Old Business, French Map Box (D)- Amend to read Laura Bogardus and Tom Sorensen; Old Business, Town Forest Update (E)- Amend “Forrest” to “Forest”.
**Motion:** (Detwiler, second Ballou) to approve the minutes as amended passed 6-0.

**5). Old Business:***A). Ronci Conservation Deed-* At the previous meeting, Vice Chairman Orvis expressed concerns about how the language in the deed may be interpreted which could prevent the construction of a handicapped access for fishing at the site. Chairman Connolly reported that after consultation with the town attorney, additional language has been added to allow the creation and maintenance of a fishing area for handicapped fishing and allow catch and release for this purpose.
**Motion:** (Orvis, second Bogardus) to accept the deed as presented passed 5-1 (Ballou opposed). The deed will now go before Selectmen for their approval Connolly said.
*B). Hay Day Report*- Chairman Connolly reported that the Hay Day celebration went well and thanked everyone that participated in the event. He said the York Wildlife Center’s presentation seemed to be the highlight of the day and they have agreed to come back next year. Other hits included Jason from the Moose Mountain Reservation, Carrie from Moose Mountain Regional Greenways, Henry Wilson Memorial School student ShonLuke Peters (winner of the sponsorship to Barry Conservation Camp) and representatives from the 4-H. Members noted that participation was up this year and being located next to the children’s activities increased involvement by children and their families. Connolly then thanked members for their help with booth coverage and tear down following the event.
*C). Any Other Old Business-*
*Aquifer Overlay Protection District Committee*- Resta Detwiler told the commission she attended the committee’s second planning meeting. Discussion included proposed revisions to the ordinance, allowed uses, exemptions, storm water management, state laws and town ordinances. The next meeting is scheduled for October 7 from 2-4 p.m. she said. Chairman Connolly asked for a side-by-side comparison of the existing ordinance and the proposed changes.

**6). New Business:***A). Dubois/French Report from BH Keith*- Chairman Connolly told the commission that Barry Keith of BH Keith Associates walked the Dubois and French properties. He then read the report from Barry Keith containing his observations and recommendations for management of the conservation lands.
*Dubois Property*- Keith reported the property is in good condition overall, new growth has taken place, there is limited tree damage, the kiosk is in good condition and limited trash deposits were found. He also found the gate was left unlocked, some rutting and erosion, signs of ATV use on the trails and some of the plastic signs are missing. His recommendations included monitoring of the parking area and gate, mowing and fertilizing of the wildlife field, wood lot management every five years, monitor and correct erosion, foot trail development and replacement of the missing signs. Keith stated the field should be mowed this fall and the commission could contract with a local contractor or Keith could hire someone for the mowing work. He also asked the members if they wished for him to investigate the availability of grants for culverts.
**Motion:** (Orvis, second Bogardus) to have Barry Keith follow up with recommendations on available grants passed 6-0.
Consensus of the commission was to contact Steve Urich for a quote for the first mowing of the wildlife field.
*French Property*- Keith reported that he found that the trail at the site needs realignment. The project may require a DES permit and suggested the commission schedule and budget for the trail project or look for a grant to fund the work. He suggested the work wait until late summer next year after the 2016 nesting season has finished. Keith also reported that he found the kiosk and parking area in good condition, lots of debris, dense growth, bridges and crossings needed may have to accessed by the snow mobile trail, dry vernal pools, and new forest growth.
Keith recommended monitoring of the parking and kiosk areas, realignment of the trails so they don’t follow the previous skidder trails, allowing uses that will not restrict forest management and relocation of the log landing. Members viewed a map of the property and compared existing and recommended options for trail placement. Additional discussion included scheduling a site walk, protecting unusual features at the site, placement of trails and crossings in the least costly, least disruptive to wildlife and low maintenance manner, mowing or brushing the wildlife area, trail tags and other markings, trail revision may require an amended DES permit and how to fund the projects. Resident Rod Thompson suggested the commission should define the trail placement before applying for a grant.
**Motion:** (Bogardus, second Ballou) to allow Barry Keith to investigate available grants passed 6-0.
Chairman Connolly said he will contact Barry Keith and invite him to walk the site with commission members and attend a meeting to discuss their findings.
*B).Driveway Permit*- Chairman Connolly reported receipt of a driveway permit application for the Town Forest.
**Motion:** (Orvis, second Ballou) to authorize Chairman Connolly to sign the permit application passed 6-0.
*C). Wetlands Forestry Notification-* Chairman Connolly said he also received the forestry notification for the Town Forest driveway.
**Motion:** (Orvis, second Ballou) to authorize Chairman Connolly to sign the notification passed 6-0.
*D). Invoice-* Chairman Connolly said he received an invoice from Barry Keith Associates for attendance at the Aug.12, 2015 commission meeting, site reviews and reports conducted by the company totaling $1,140. If approved, the money would come from the Conservation Commission fund he said.
**Motion:** (Orvis, second Ballou) to pay the invoice passed 6-0.
 **Motion:** (Connolly, second Bogardus) to take a 10 minute break passed 6-0 at 7:35 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.
*E). NHACC*- Chairman Connolly told the members that the annual meeting of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions will be held in Pembrooke on November 7, 2015. Cost per attendee is $55 and interested members should register on the group’s web site he said. Members Resta Detwiler, Laura Bogardus, Rose Muise, Jackie Bissell and Chairman Connolly expressed interest in attending the meeting.
**Motion:** (Detwiler, second Bogardus) to approve spending up to $275 for five members to attend NHACC annual meeting passed 6-0.
Chairman Connolly then told members that next year’s NHACC membership dues will be $345 and are due in April. The members will address the issue in March.
*F). MMRG Annual Report*- Connolly reported that the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways Annual Report has been filed.
*G). MMRG Round Table*- Chairman Connolly explained that the Round Table is an opportunity for nearby Conservation Commissions to meet and discuss their activities, problems and successes. He said the date and place for next Round Table has not been scheduled and suggested the commission consider hosting the next meeting in Farmington at the Town Hall.
*H). Town Forest Conservation Deed-* Chairman Connolly updated the members on the attempts to place all five properties that make up the Town Forest in one conservation deed. He reported that this is not an easy task and suggested the members consult with the town attorney to decide the proper steps to complete the task. Consensus of the commission was to invite the town attorney to meet with members on October 14 at 6 p.m.
*I). School Outreach*- Member Detwiler told the commission she is working on an e-mail outreach to the town’s schools to involve teachers, students and their families in an anti-littering project. Chairman Connolly noted there has been a lot of “hub-bub” on social media lately about the amount of litter and trash in town and suggested this is a good time to take advantage of resident interest in the problem. He added he would like to see residents make a statement that we respect our town and that we want a clean town and educating the town’s children of all ages is a good place to start. Discussion included obtaining town and school e-mail contact information, additional information about trash from a course taken by member Rose Muise, visiting a local and regional waste facility, examples of clean areas and dirty areas in town, who cleans the public areas in town, invite speakers to the schools, involve businesses and seek their help in keeping their areas clean and ask students to look for dirty/littered areas at their schools. Chairman Connolly also suggested that Detwiler identify a representative/contact person at each school, have a discussion of the issues with each rep and then draw up a list of potential projects/activities, and obtain video footage of past spring clean-ups conducted by the commission and volunteers to show students. Connolly offered to contact Waste Management to see if they have public educational programs/tours and member Muise offered to see what materials from her course may be useful for this project.
*J). Any Other New Business*- None.

**7). FYI:**
*A). Wetlands Permit*- Chairman Connolly informed the members that the minimum impact expedited wetlands permit for 527 Meaderboro Road was approved by the state Dept. of Environmental Services.

**8). October Meetings:**
*A). Consultation with Town Attorney*- October 14 at 6 p.m.
*B).Next Commission meeting*- October 14 at 7 p.m.

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

**10). Adjournment:
Motion:** (Orvis, second Bogardus) to adjourn the meeting passed 6-0 at 8:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary